Chapter 9
第9話
「END THEME_3」

RRRRING
RRRRING
RRRRING
I TOOK A DAY OFF FROM WORK ...
I'M AT HOME.
I'M FINE.
...HELLO.
EITHER WAY, I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO GIVE YOU...
OKAY.

...I THOUGHT...
...THAT I'D SEND OFF MY THINGS,
BUT I FIGURED THAT I MIGHT AS WELL BRING THEM HOME FOR NOW.
RISA...

BESIDES "SORRY",
WHAT ELSE DID YOU WANT...
...TO SAY?
.....
LET'S STOP APOLOGIZING TO EACH OTHER.
WHEN I...
...WAS A KID, THERE WAS THIS GIRL I REALLY LIKED.
WE WERE SEPARATED FROM EACH OTHER.
HOWEVER, I STILL BELIEVED THAT MY FEELINGS FOR HER WOULD CONTINUE.
IN THE END, LETTERS JUST COULDN'T FILL THE GAP IN OUR DISTANCE.

EVEN THE LETTER I WAS GOING TO GIVE TO HER...
WHAT I WANTED TO TELL HER...
...WAS THE ONE THING I COULDN'T SAY.
...THAT PERSON...
...WAS IN IWAFUNE?
.....
SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T LIVE THERE ANYMORE, THOUGH.
...IT WAS A MEMORY I DIDN'T WANT TO TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT.
BUT, BECAUSE OF THAT, THOSE ALL-IMPORTANT FEELINGS WERE CREATED,
AND I'VE HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE AS A RESULT.

THAT'S WHY...
...I WANTED TO BECOME STRONG...
...WHEN I LEFT IWA-FUNE...
...AND WHEN I BID FAREWELL TO HER.
STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT HER.
AND TO NOT LOSE THESE FEEL-INGS, EVEN THOUGH WE WERE FAR APART.
THAT WAS THE ONLY THING...
...THAT ENABLED ME TO KEEP LIVING.
HOWEVER, THAT PURE WISH LOST TO REALITY AND FADED AWAY.

THE REGRETS KEPT GROWING...
...WORSE AND WORSE...
...AND MORE PAINFUL.

THOSE WERE THE ONLY THOUGHTS I HAD.

I BETRAYED BOTH HER...
...AND THE ME...
... FROM BACK THEN.

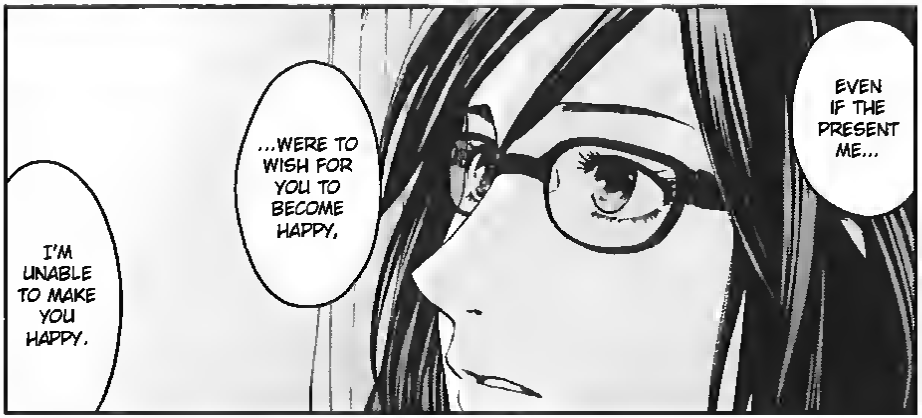
"THIS ISN'T WHERE I BELONG."
"I WON'T ACCEPT THIS ME AS BEING MYSELF."

.....
... GRADE SEVEN.
...WHEN YOU RODE THE TRAIN TO IWA-FUNE?
...HOW OLD WERE YOU...
SO YOU LOVED SOMEONE THAT MUCH WHEN YOU WERE ONLY 13 YEARS OLD, HUH?
I THINK THAT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT...
THANKS FOR TELLING ME ABOUT THIS...
.. HOW GREAT... ...THAT PERSON WAS,
OR GET OVER YOUR REGRETS.

SOMEONE WHO'S GENTLY BOUND...
...BY THE PAST.
SOME-ONE WITH A STRONG SENSE OF RESPON-SIBILITY,
BUT WHO, IN REALITY, IS WEAK.
SOME-ONE WHO RUNS AWAY AND WHO CLAIMS THAT IT'S NOT HIS FAULT WHEN THINGS GO BADLY.
I GUESS THAT'S HOW YOU APPEAR NOW.
HOW-EVER, I'M SURE...
...THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH THAT TAKAKI-KUN.
I MAY NOT KNOW THE CIRCUM-STANCES BEHIND THEM,
BUT THOSE RE-GRETS HAVE ALREADY BECOME A PART OF THE PERSON KNOWN AS TAKAKI-KUN.

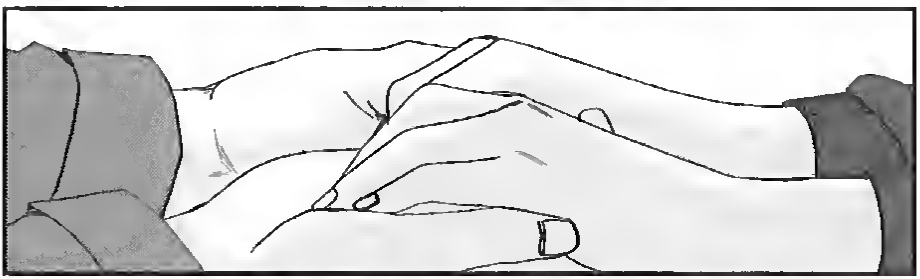
THAT'S WHY...
...I WANT YOU TO FORGIVE YOURSELF FOR NOT FULFILING YOUR END OF THE PROMISE.
I LOVE THE PRESENT YOU THAT WAS FORMED FROM ALL THIS.
WELL, I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE SAYING THAT, HUH...?
I ALREADY KNOW.

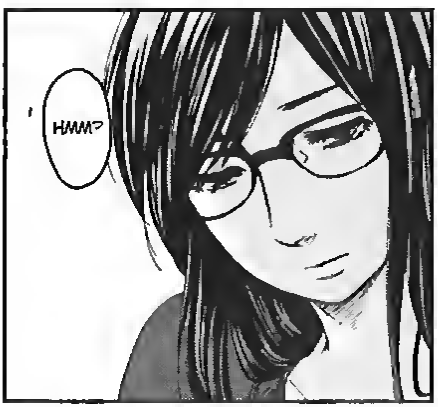
HOW YOU'RE TELLING ME ALL OF THIS...
...AND HOW MY ANGER IS DISAP-PEARING...
...MEANS THAT WE'RE OVER, RIGHT?


EVEN IF THE PRESENT ME...
...WERE TO WISH FOR YOU TO BECOME HAPPY,
I'M UNABLE TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

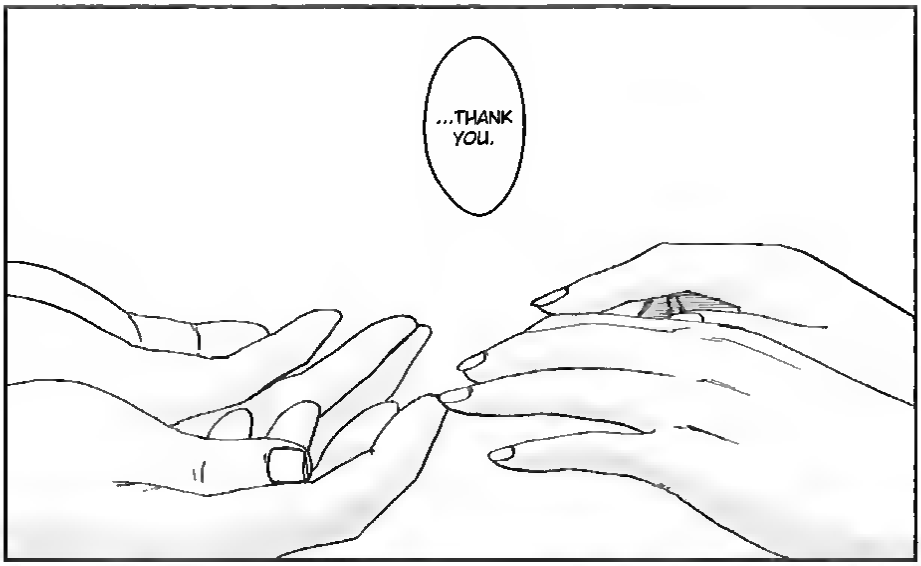
HOW-EVER,
IT'D BE NICE...
...IF WE WERE TO MEET AGAIN SOME-DAY...
TODAY'S THE END.
...AS COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND START SOME-THING NEW.
...IN A COM-PLETELY DIFFER-ENT WAY...
...IF I WISH FOR THIS TO HAPPEN SOMEDAY?
THIS ISN'T A PROMISE
IS IT OKAY...

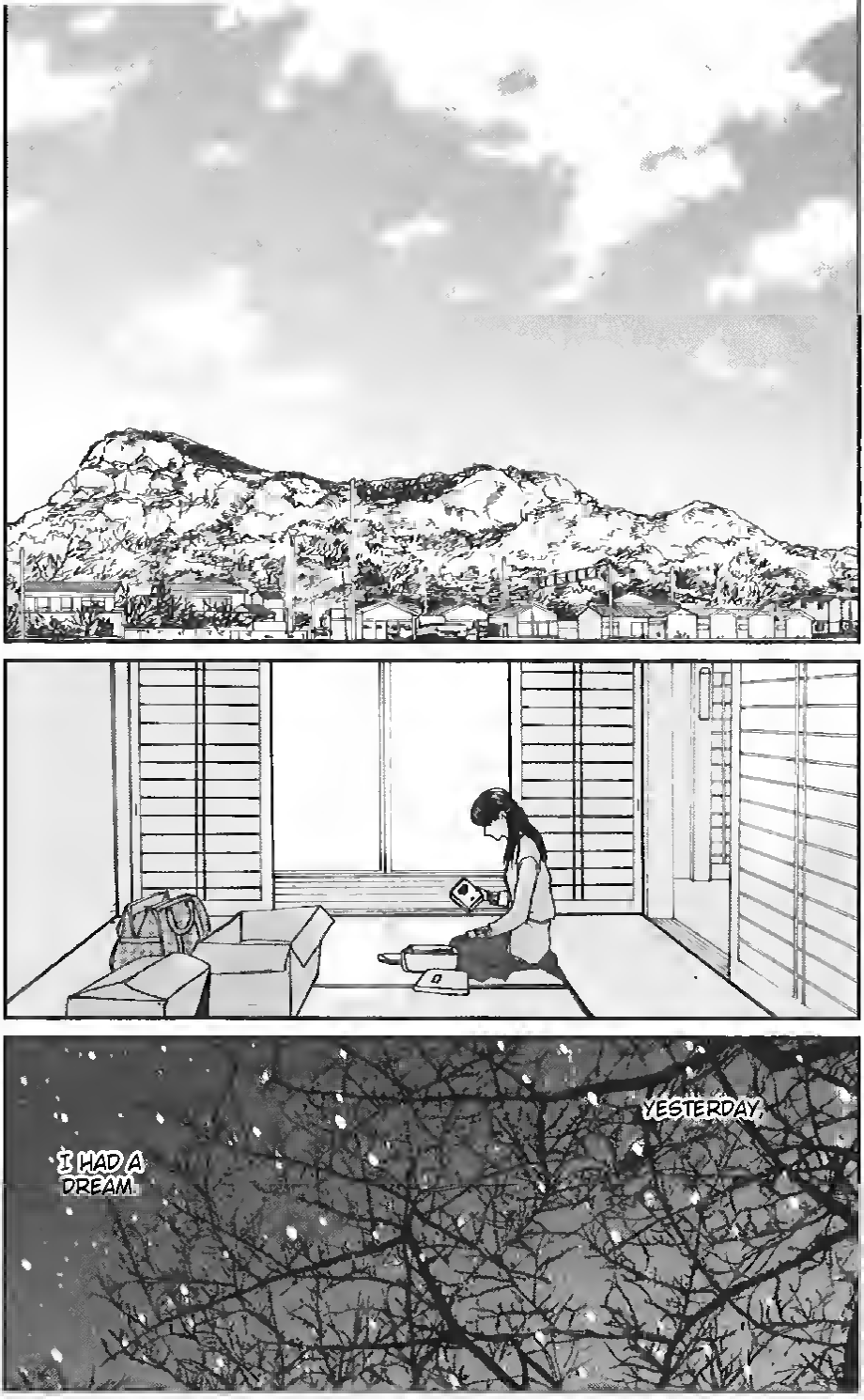
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YEAH...




HMM?

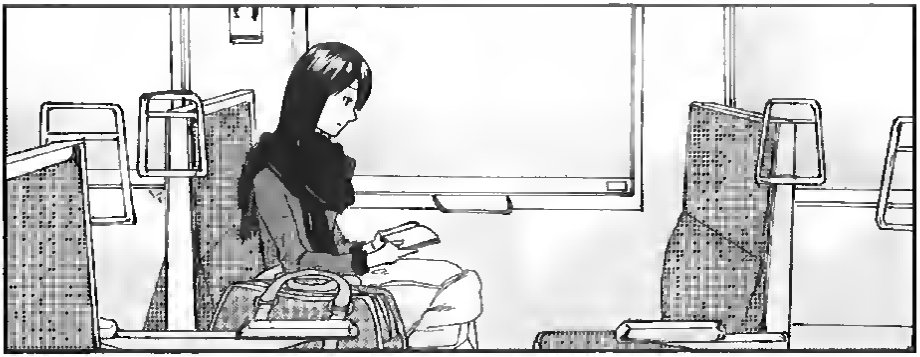
RISA.

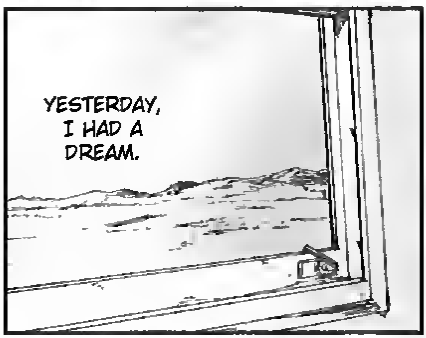

...THANK YOU.


I HAD A DREAM
YESTERDAY,

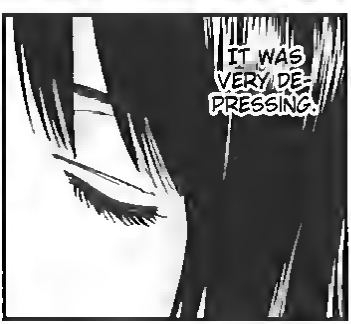
Toono Takaki-sama
things from the past

IT WOULD'VE BEEN GREAT IF YOU COULD STAY UNTIL NEW YEAR'S
I'LL COME BACK IF I HAVE SOME FREE TIME.
HEY,
THAT'LL BE AT YOUR WEDDING, HUH...?
YOU CAN'T COME ANY TIME BEFORE THEN?
I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS THAT I NEED TO PREPARE.
BESIDES, I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT MONTH.
MOM, DAD, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES, TOO.
OKAY.
SAY HI TO YUUICHI-KUN FOR ME, ALL RIGHT?

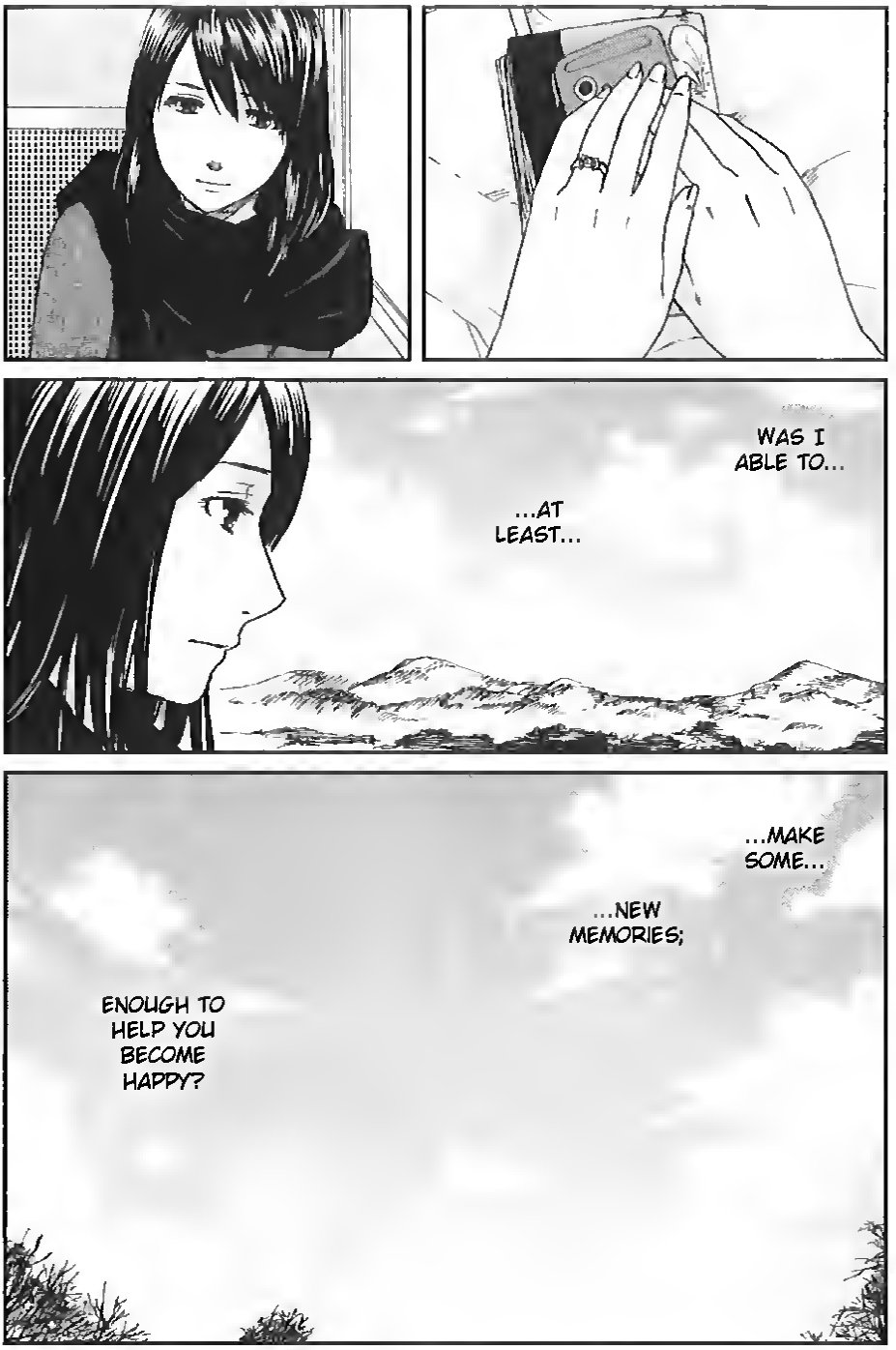



YESTERDAY, I HAD A DREAM.

YOU PROBABLY WANTED ME TO GO HOME.
WERE YOU THINKING, "DID SHE GO HOME ALREADY?"
AFTER ALL, YOU WERE SO KIND.


IT WAS VERY DEPRESSING.

I BELIEVED THAT YOU WOULD COME NO MATTER WHAT.
HOWEVER, I WOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL THE END OF TIME.
VRRR
VRRR
I REALLY, REALLY!
NEW MESSAGE FROM YUUCHI-SAN
VRRR

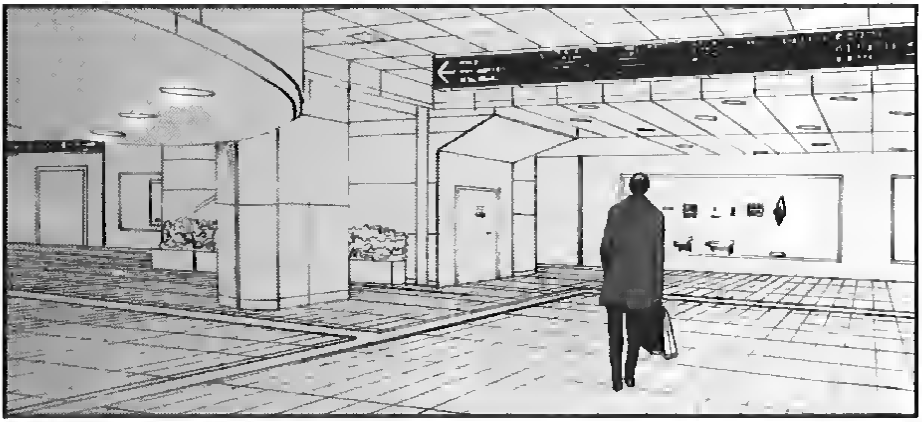

WAS I ABLE TO...
...AT LEAST...
...MAKE SOME...
...NEW MEMORIES;
ENOUGH TO HELP YOU BECOME HAPPY?

IT'LL BE OUR LAST TIME TOGETHER.
SO IT'S FINE IF YOUR FAREWELL PARTY ISN'T SOMETHING GRAND, RIGHT?
I CAN'T LEAVE UNTIL I'M DONE HERE, SO I'LL JUST KEEP YOU WAITING...
JUST HAVE SOME-ONE DO IT FOR YOU.
ME, KUDOU, SHIMAZAKI, AND...
WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I'M JUST DOING MY JOB.
SORRY FOR MA-KING YOU DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS.
I'LL HAVE A BIT OF FREE TIME AFTER THIS,
SO PLEASE ASK ME LATER.

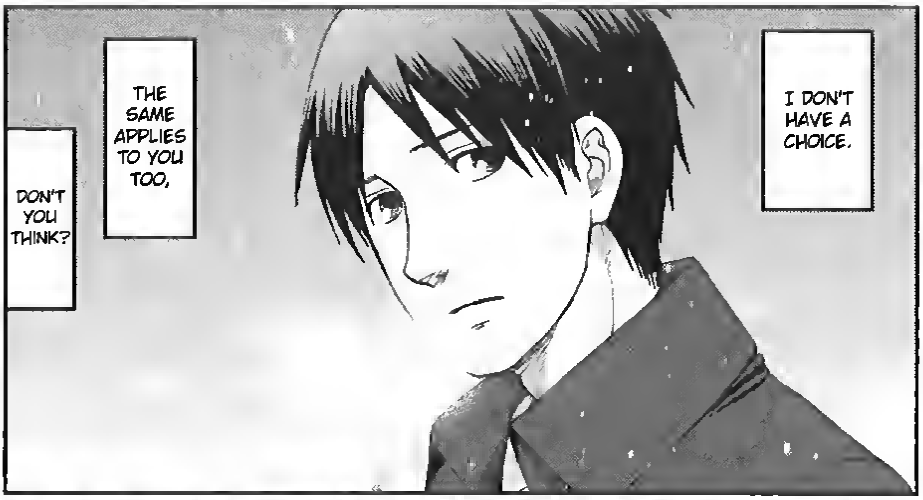
...I'M SORRY FOR VARIOUS THINGS I'VE DONE.
TOONO.
.....
HMPH
...NOT AT ALL.
PAT

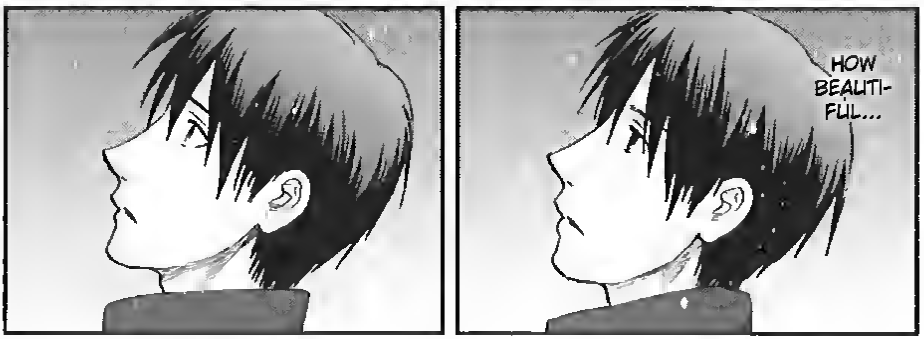
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH HEAVY SNOW TODAY...
...WHEN I PICKED THE TIME TO MEET UP WITH YOU
IT SEEMS LIKE THE TRAINS ARE DE-LAYED TOO

THAT'S WHY...
...I'M WRITING THIS WHILE I'M WAITING FOR YOU, TAKAKI-KUN.



...I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO THINGS PROPERLY BY MYSELF NOW.

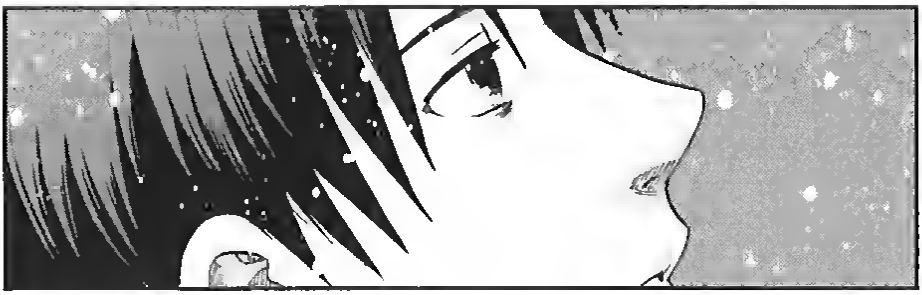

I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
THE SAME APPLIES TO YOU TOO,
DON'T YOU THINK?

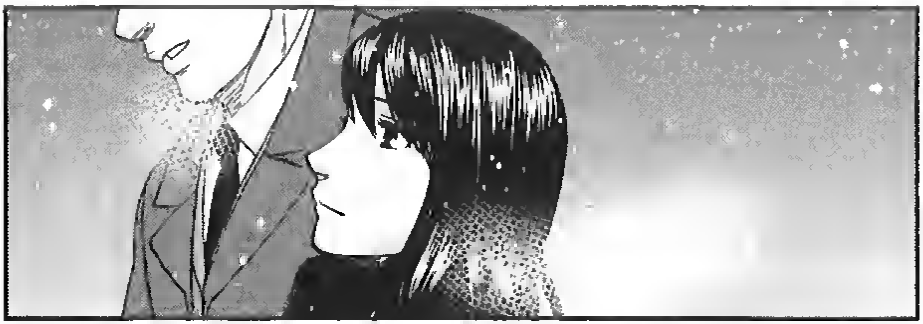

HOW BEAUTI-FUL...

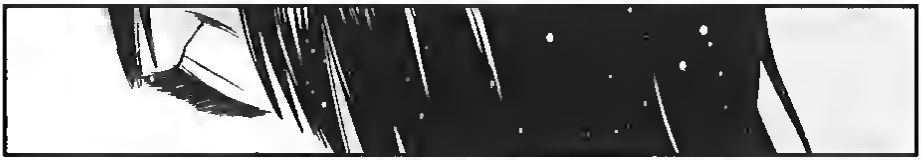
...THAT I THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING LOOKED BEAUTIFUL?
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME...
AFTER LISTENING TO A MESSAGE ONCE,
...TAKAKI-KUN,
THE NEXT TRAIN COMES IN 30 MINUTES
I GUESS I'M STUCK HERE...
I CAN NEITHER LISTEN TO IT AGAIN,
NOR DELETE IT.

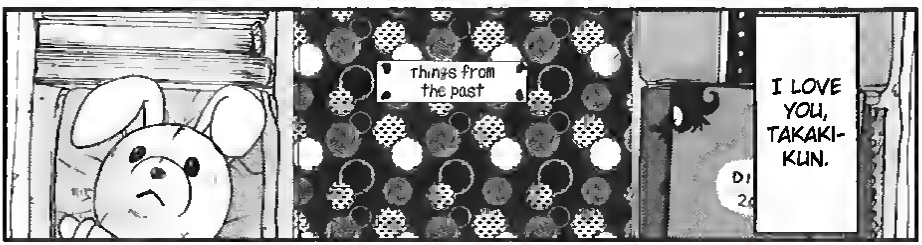
I'M SORRY.
I GUESS I ASKED SOMETHING UNREASONABLE.
CLICK
VOICE MAIL 1 PLAYBACK
REPLAY/DELETE MESSAGE
DELETED.

EXACTLY HOW MANY...
...BEAUTIFUL THINGS...
...AND SPARKLING FEELINGS...
...HAVE FLOWN OUT INTO REALITY,
THEREBY MAKING ME UNABLE TO EXPERIENCE THEM?








things from the past
I LOVE YOU, TAKAKI-KUN.

EVER SINCE I MET YOU, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE A VERY STRONG AND KIND BOY.

YOU ALWAYS PROTECT-ED ME.

NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY YOU GO,

I WILL DEFI-NITE-LY...
...ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

PLEASE...
...RE-MEMBER THAT.

Chapter 10
第10話
「One more time, One more chance」

RRRRING
NO, I HAVE-N'T.
YES.
HELLO.
RRRRING

IT KIND OF FEELS...
...LIKE I HAVEN'T TALKED TO ANYONE IN AGES.

HOW LONELY.

HOWEVER,
THAT'S THE REAL ME.

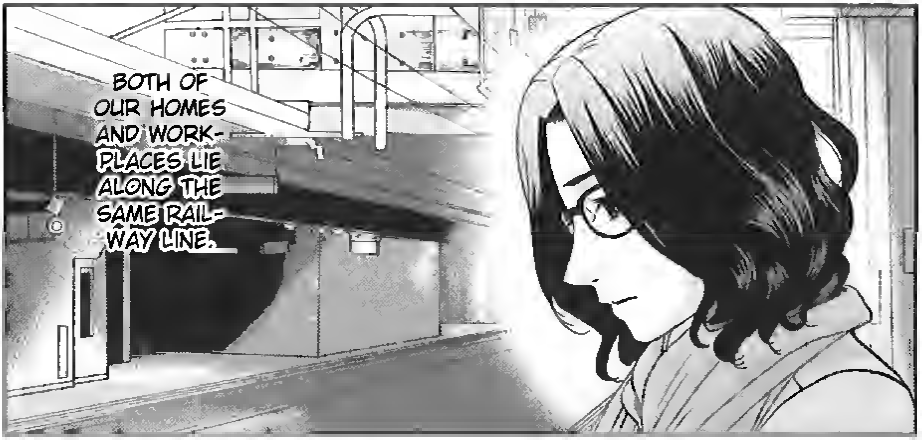
I DIDN'T OPEN MY HEART TO ANYONE.
AS SUCH, I WAS OBSESSED WITH BEING GOOD TO OTHERS, SO THAT I WOULD DISTRACT MYSELF FROM MY LONELINESS.
CLICK

I LOST EVERYTHING.

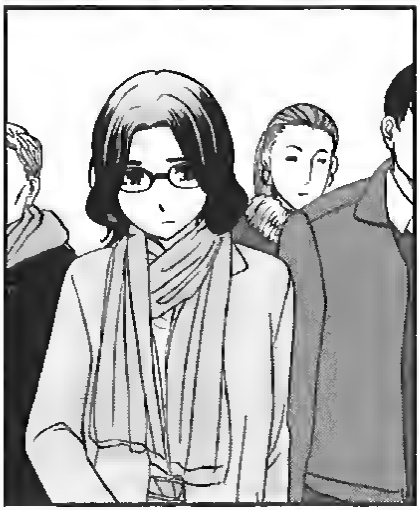
AND THEN,

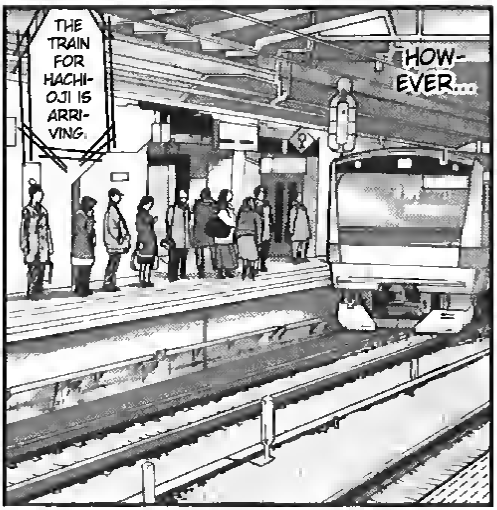
THAT'S THE ME WHOM I'VE BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT,
SO THAT I...
...CAN FACE OTHERS FROM NOW ON.

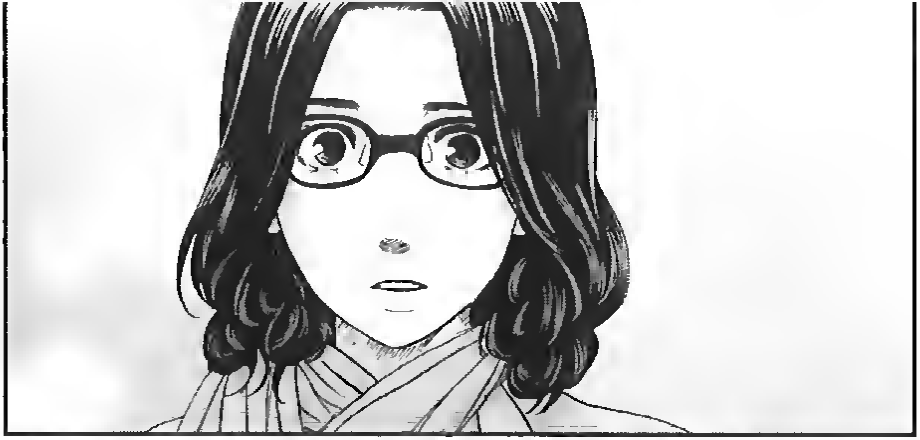
THIS ISN'T A MIRACLE.


BOTH OF OUR HOMES AND WORK-PLACES LIE ALONG THE SAME RAIL-WAY LINE.

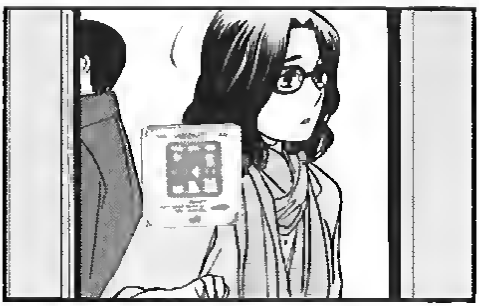
TO BEGIN WITH, WE MET BY CHANCE AT THIS VERY STATION.

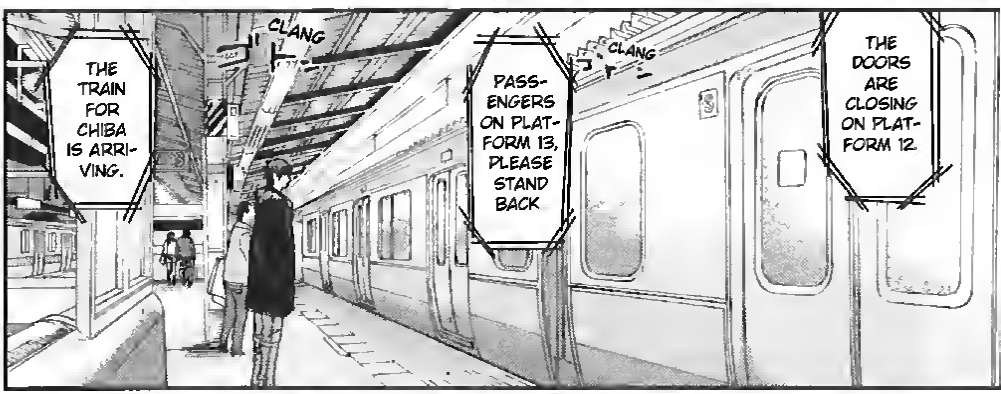



THE TRAIN FOR HACHI-OJI IS ARRI-VING.
HOW-EVER...



シュー
WHOOSH



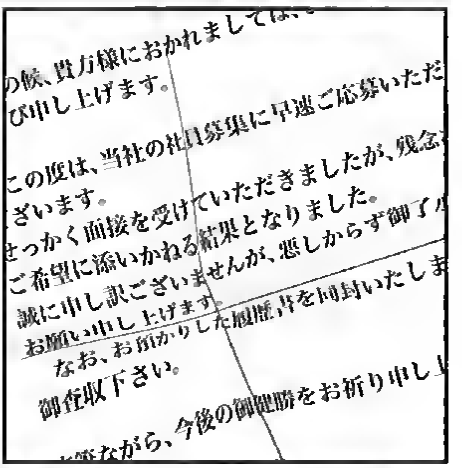

CLANG
THE TRAIN FOR CHIBA IS ARRIVING.
CLANG
PASSENGERS ON PLATFORM 13, PLEASE STAND BACK
THE DOORS ARE CLOSING ON PLATFORM 12.

CLANG
ゴトン
CLANG
ゴトン
CLANG
ゴトン

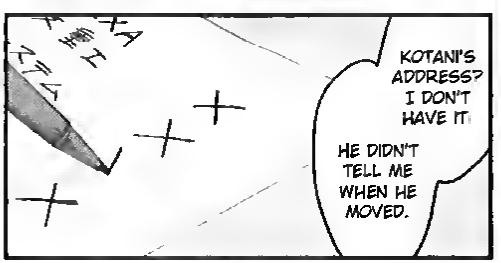
IT'S NOT A PROM-ISE.

SOME-
DAY...
from 1999

SIGH...

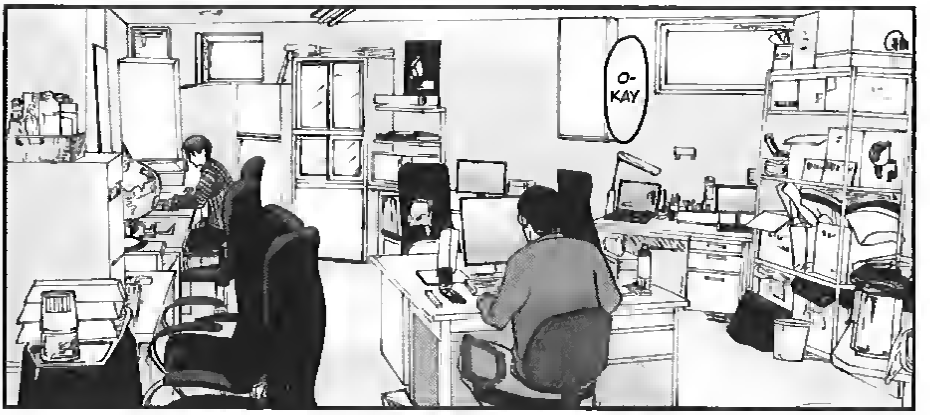

の候、貴方様におかれましては、
び申し上げます。
この度は、当社の社員募集に早速ご応募いただ
ざいます。
さっかく面接を受けていただきましたが、残念
ご希望に添いかねる結果となりました。
誠に申し訳ございませんが、悪しからず御了
お願い申し上げます。
なお、お預かりした履歴書を同封いたしま
御査収下さい。
ながら、今後の御健勝をお祈り申し上

AH,
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HELLO.

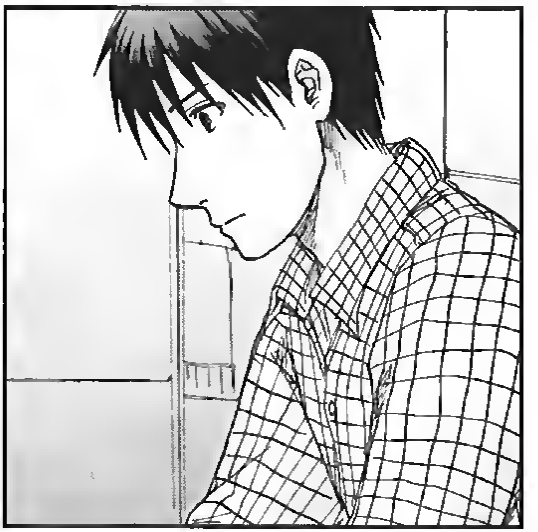

KOTANI'S ADDRESS? I DON'T HAVE IT.
HE DIDN'T TELL ME WHEN HE MOVED.

RRRING
プルルル

WHY DON'T YOU TRY ASKING FUJISAWA OR TAKE-UCHI?
HAHA. OKAY.
HE'S TRAVEL-LING? WHAT THE HELL?
YEAH.
I QUIT.
YEAH,
I'M NOT WORKING RIGHT NOW, SO IT'S FINE.
AH, NO.
I GUESS. I LIKE TO THINK ABOUT IT THAT WAY.
NOPE, I HAVEN'T FOUND ANY-THING.
I'M JOB HUNTING RIGHT NOW.
THERE'S JUST SOME STUFF THAT I WANT TO DO.

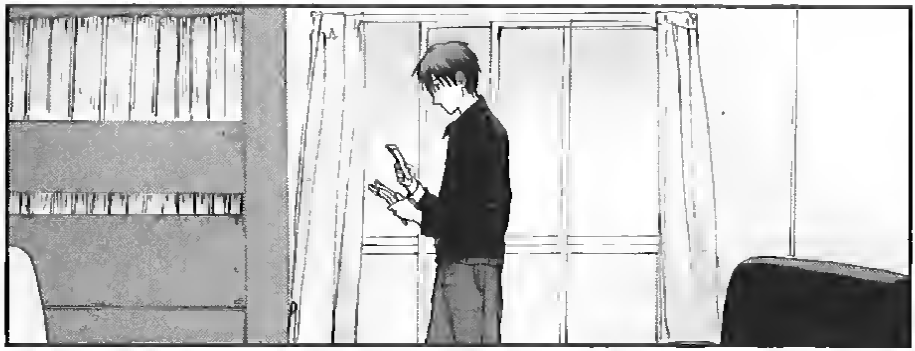

O-KAY

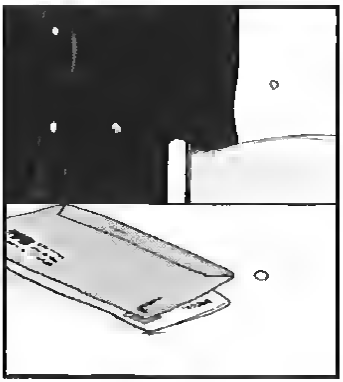
TOONO-KUN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH ME?

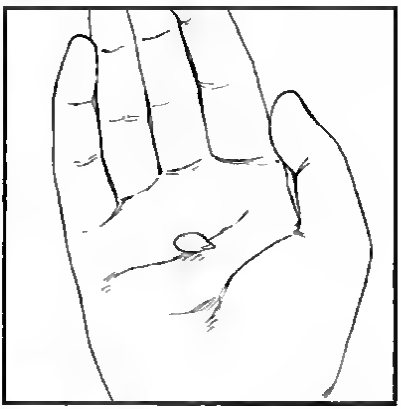


IT SEEMS PRETTY WARM OUTSIDE, SO WE PROBABLY WON'T NEED OUR COATS.
AH, SURE.
I FEEL LIKE EATING SOBA TODAY.
THAT SOUNDS GREAT.
ELISH

I KNOW.
WELL, IT'S YOUR JOB, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
TEXT ME BEFORE YOU GET HOME.
HMM...
IT'S GOING TO BE RAINING FROM THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW THROUGH NEXT WEEK, SO...
CHERRY BLOSSOMS?
I'M GOING TO GO SHOPPING NOW, SO I'LL GO TAKE SOME PICTURES FOR YOU.
IT'D BE NICE IF THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS NOW ARE AS PRETTY AS THEY WERE BEFORE.

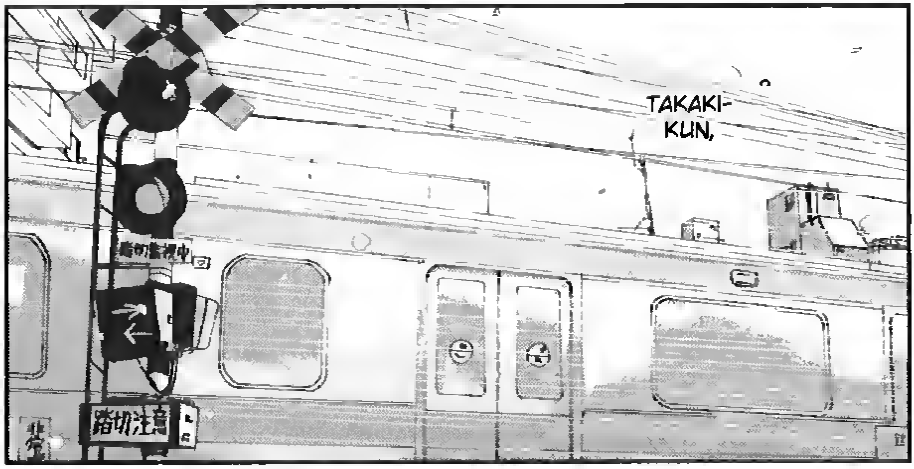


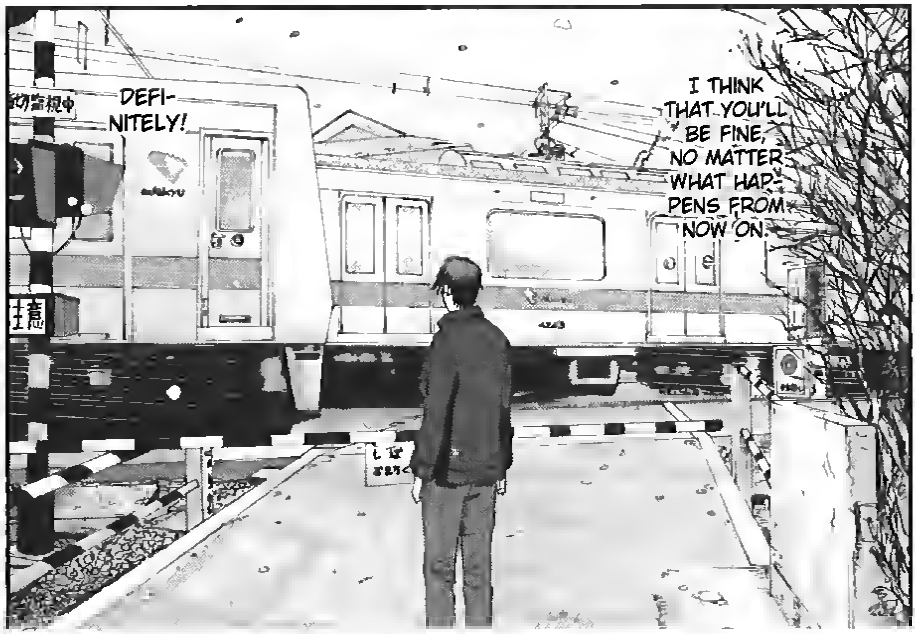




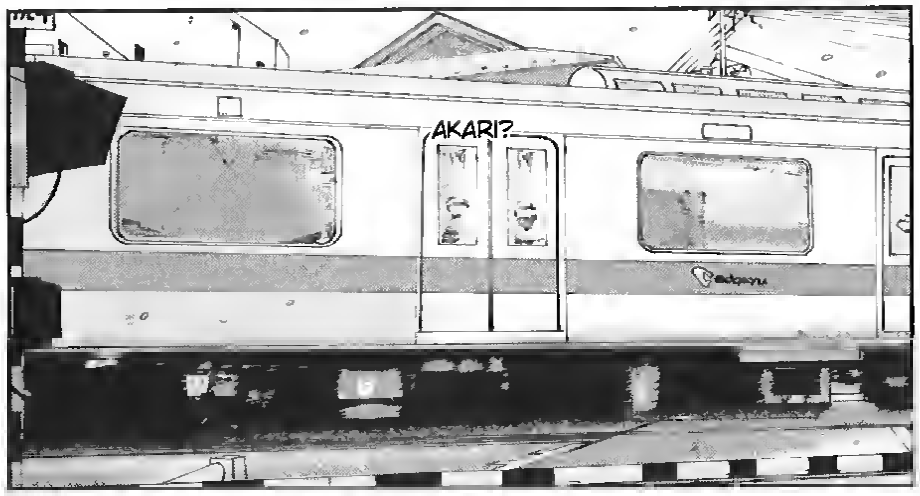
カン
CLANG
カン
CLANG

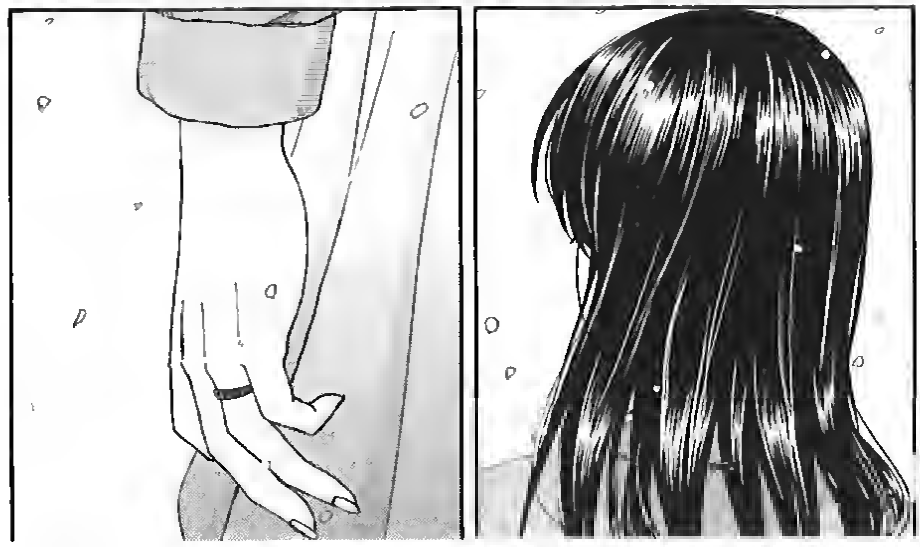
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG


TAKAKI-
KUN,


DEFI-
NITELY!
I THINK
THAT YOU'LL
BE FINE,
NO MATTER
WHAT HAP-
PENS FROM
NOW ON.

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,


AKARI?



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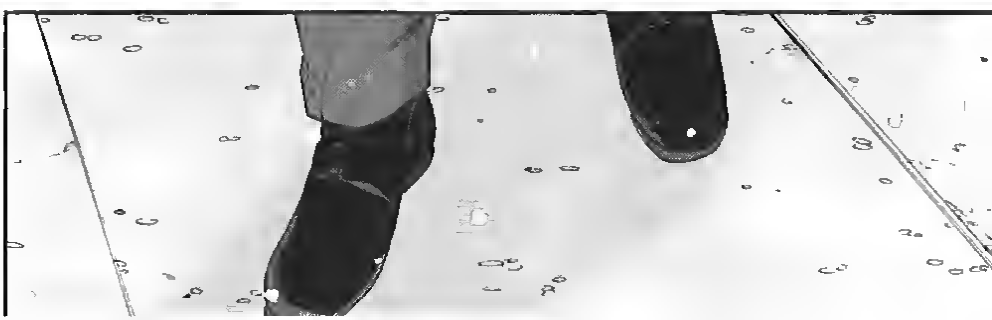
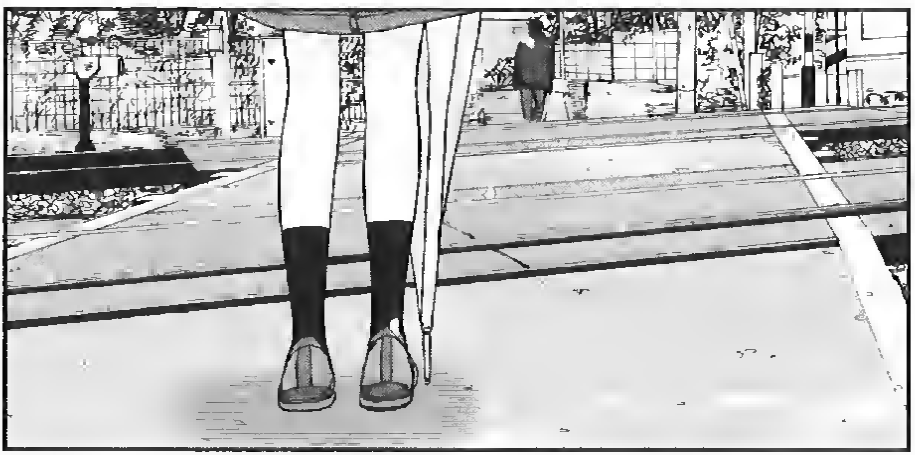
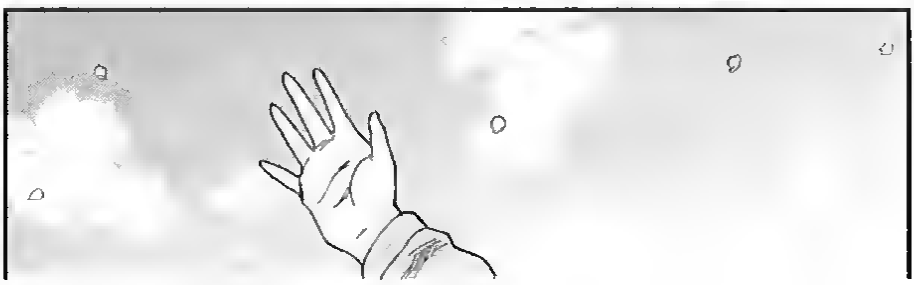






Final Chapter "The Poem of the Sky and Sea"

最終話「空と海の詩」

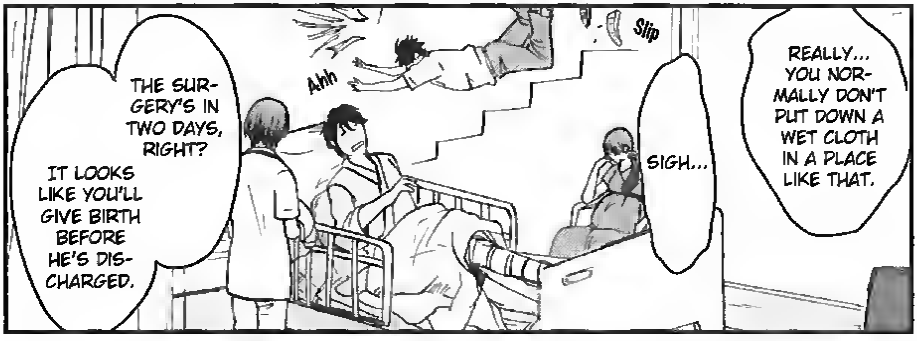
WHOOSH

KANAE-CHAN,
YOU'RE NOT COMING IN?
I ONLY CAME TO WATCH TODAY.
REAL-LY?
WELL, THE WAVES AREN'T ANY GOOD TODAY, I SUP-POSE.
YEAH.
I WAS THINKING, "RIYOU-KUN IS SO AMA-ZING, EVEN IN THESE CONDITIONS," WHILE WATCHING.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

THANKS. I'LL GIVE THEM TO THEM.
ALSO, I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE PICTURES FROM TAKA-SAN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY,
AND COPIES FOR THE OTHERS FROM THE STORE.
HMM?
I ONLY HEARD THIS FROM CHIKA A WHILE BACK, BUT KANAE-CHAN, YOU'RE SINGLE RIGHT NOW?
HEY,
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO GO OUT WITH ME SOMETIME?

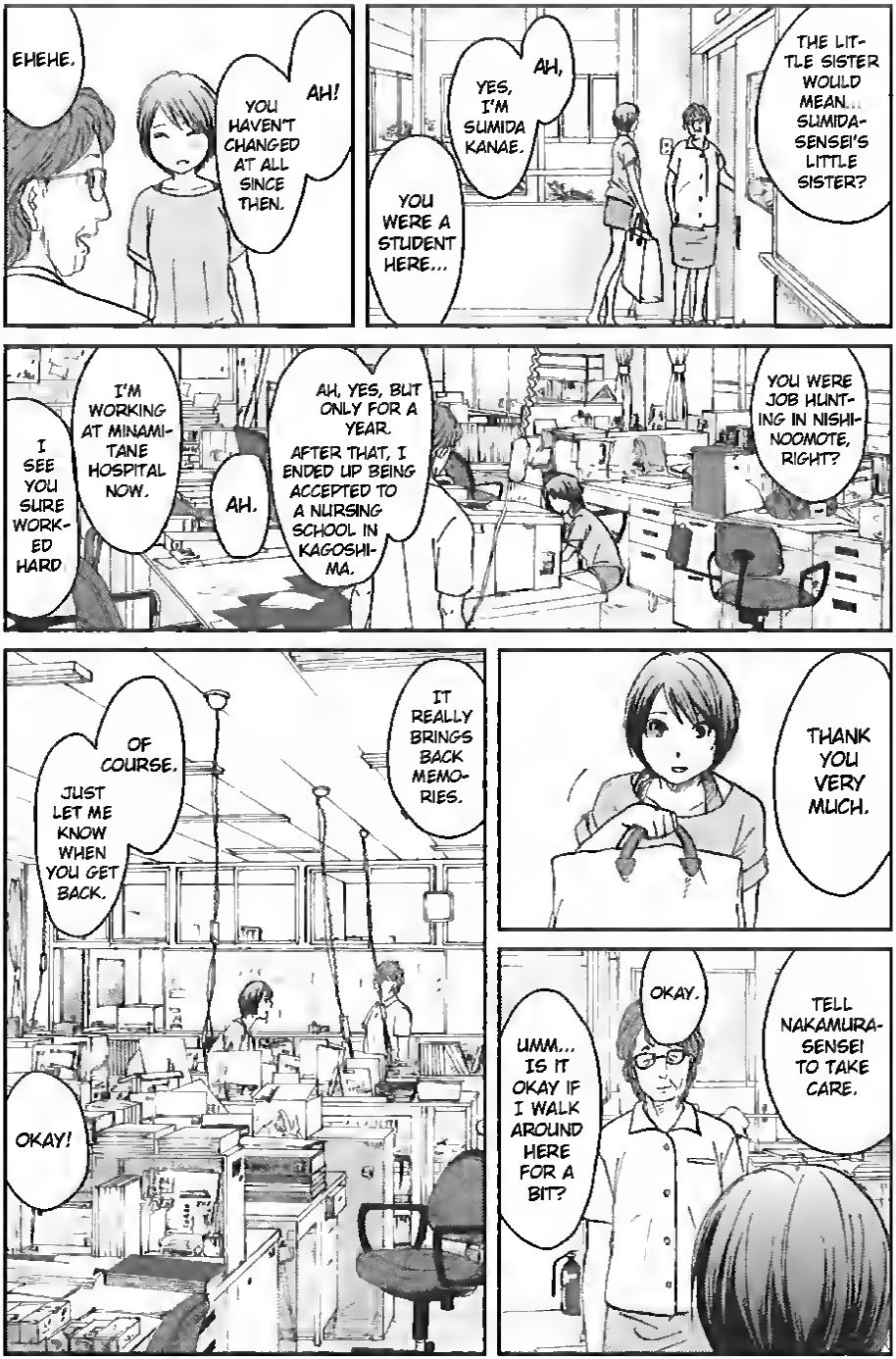
JOLT
IT'S FINE. GO ANSWER IT.
MY PHONE,
AH...
SORRY.
BANG
HELLO, ONEE-CHAN? WHAT!?
...HUH!?

UGH...
HOW SHAME-FUL...
IT'S GOOD THAT HE DIDN'T HIT HIS HEAD.

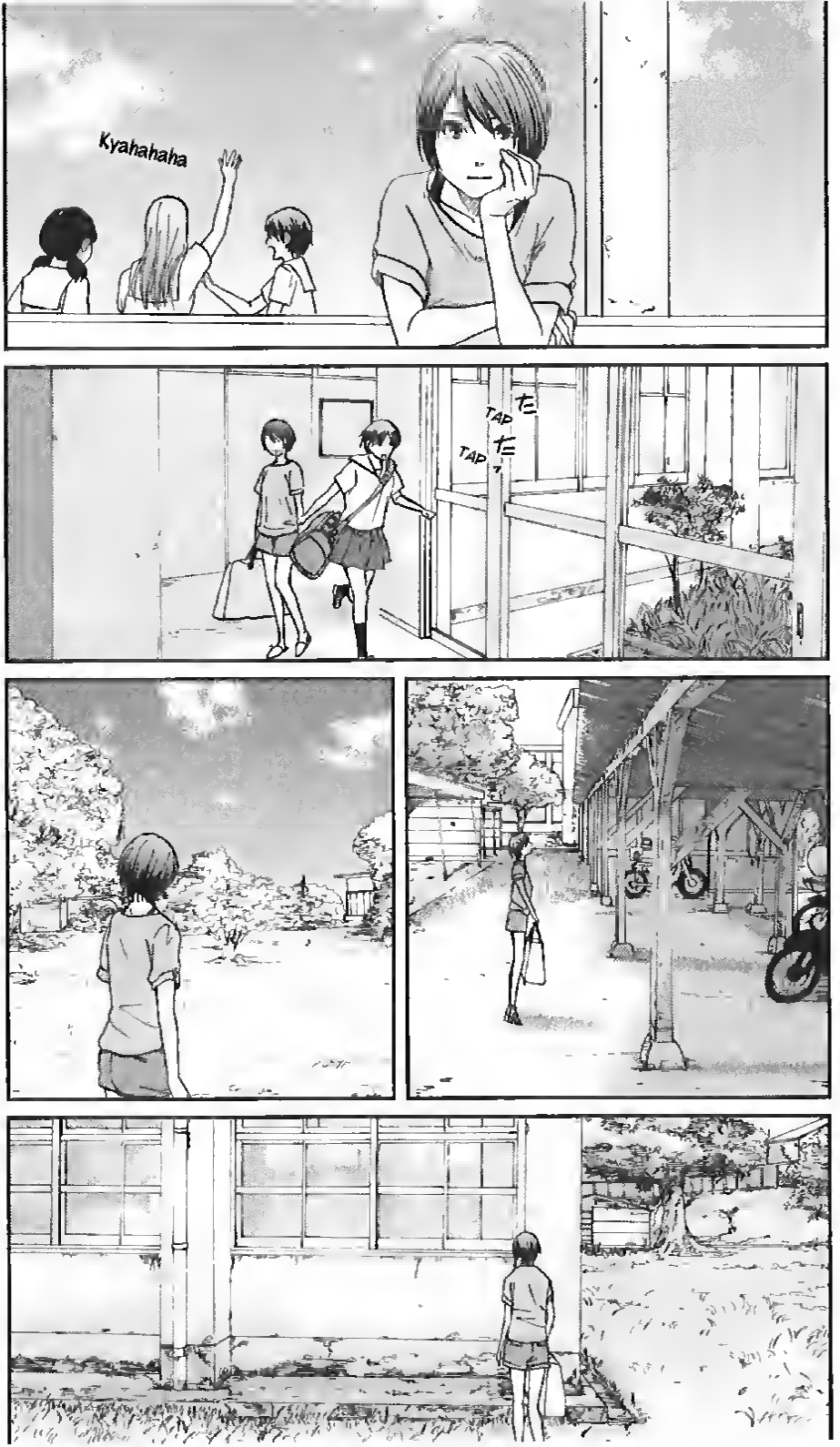

REALLY... YOU NOR-MALLY DON'T PUT DOWN A WET CLOTH IN A PLACE LIKE THAT.
Slip
Ahh
SIGH...
THE SUR-GERY'S IN TWO DAYS, RIGHT?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL GIVE BIRTH BEFORE HE'S DIS-CHARGED.

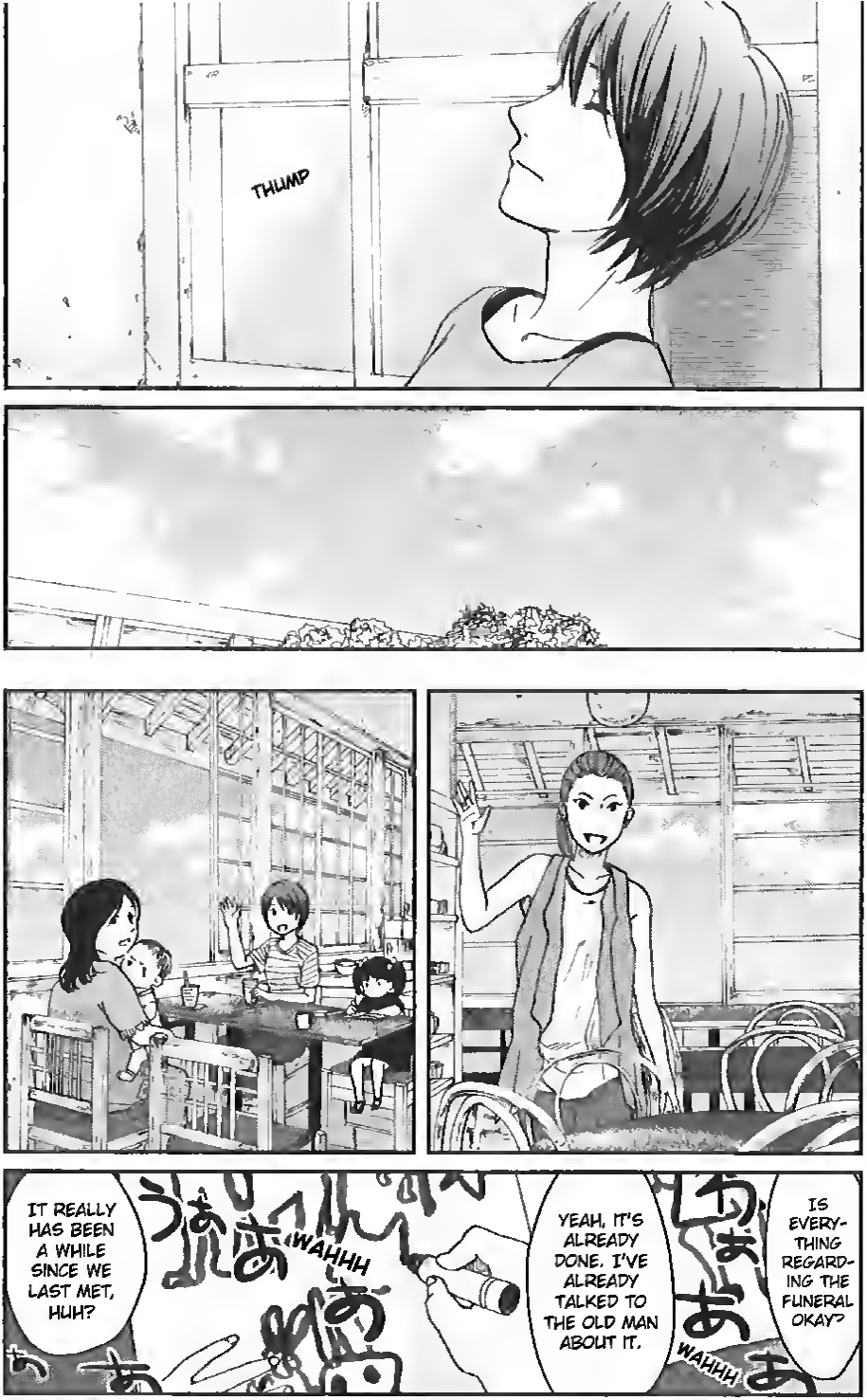
AW, MAN, THAT'S RIGHT. IF ONLY THEY HAD AN OBSTETRICS WARD HERE...
I CAN'T BE THERE AS IT HAPPENS? I CAN'T SNEAK OUT MID-WAY?
BE QUIET AL-READY!
SIGH...
OH RIGHT, KANAE SORRY FOR MAKING YOU DO THIS, BUT AT SCH-OOL...

LOOK, IT'S PAPA!
ガラ SLIDE
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.
ガラ SLIDE
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
THE THINGS IN YOUR DESK, RIGHT? I'VE ALREADY HEARD...
...THAT YOU'RE ON LEAVE STARTING TOMORROW. I'LL GO GET THEM.
WOAH!
PAPA!
YES. ASIDE FROM HIS BROKEN KNEECAP,
HE'S DOING GREAT.
AH, I GOT THE MES-SAGE.
IS NAKA-MURA-SENSEI OKAY?
EXCUSE ME, I'M SOMEONE FROM MR. NAKAMURA'S FAMILY.

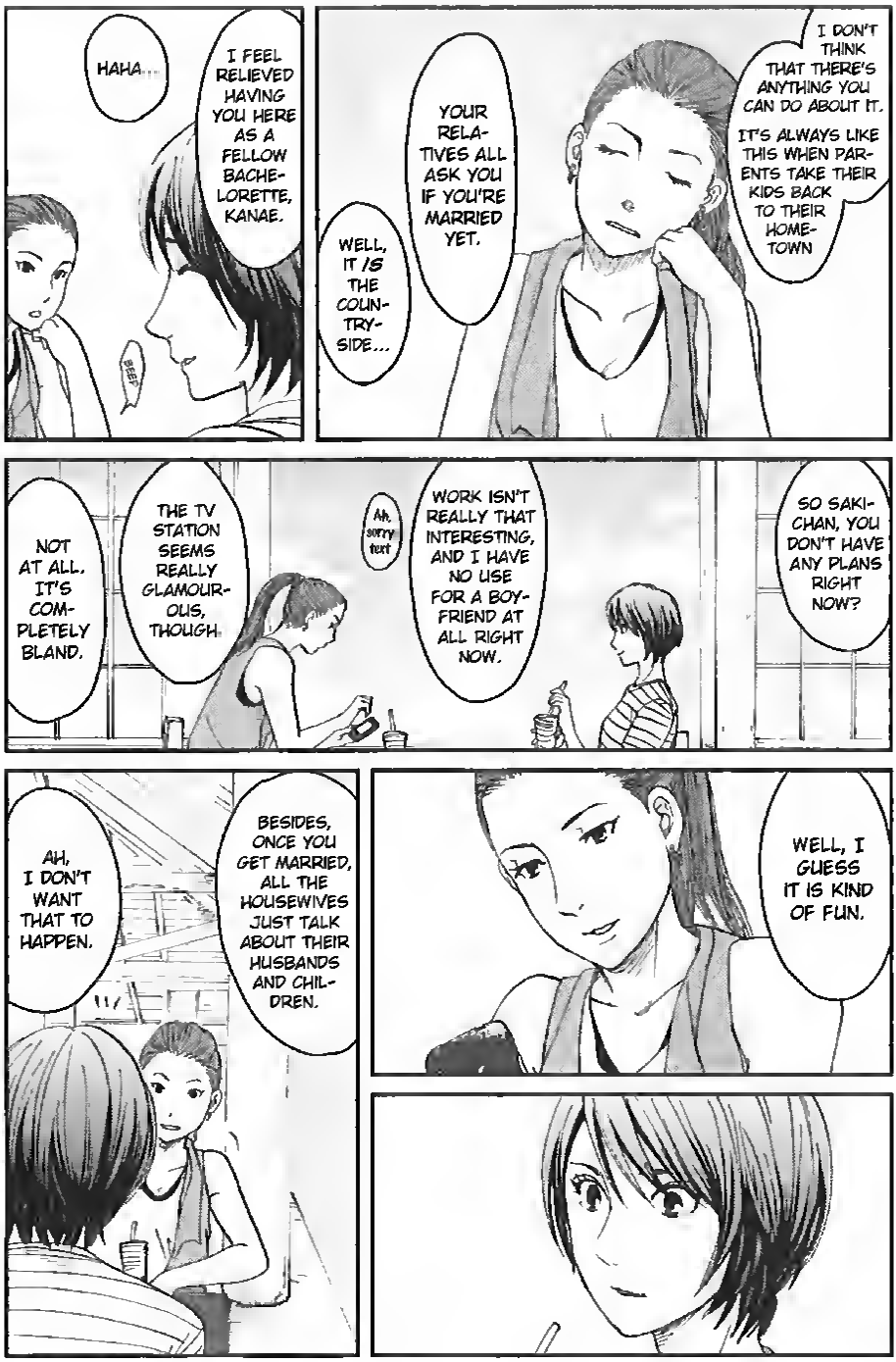

EHEHE.
AH!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE THEN.
AH,
YES, I'M SUMIDA KANAE.
YOU WERE A STUDENT HERE...
THE LITTLE SISTER WOULD MEAN... SUMIDA-SENSEI'S LITTLE SISTER?
I SEE YOU SURE WORKED HARD
I'M WORKING AT MINAMITANE HOSPITAL NOW.
AH.
AH, YES, BUT ONLY FOR A YEAR. AFTER THAT, I ENDED UP BEING ACCEPTED TO A NURSING SCHOOL IN KAGOSHIMA.
YOU WERE JOB HUNTING IN NISHINOOMOTE, RIGHT?
OKAY!
OF COURSE. JUST LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU GET BACK.
IT REALLY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
UMM... IS IT OKAY IF I WALK AROUND HERE FOR A BIT?
OKAY.
TELL NAKAMURA-SENSEI TO TAKE CARE.

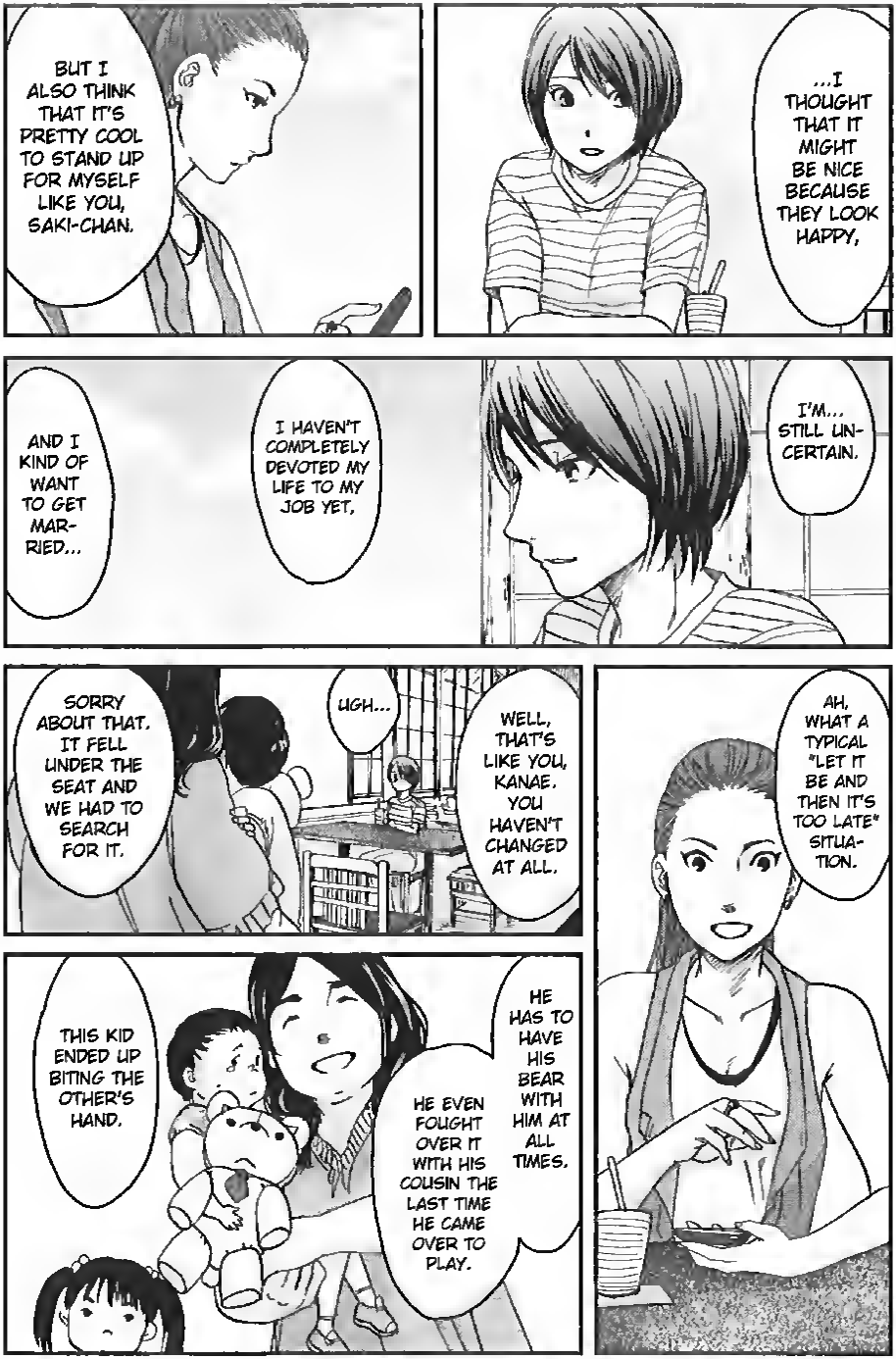
PSSSH
SQUEAK

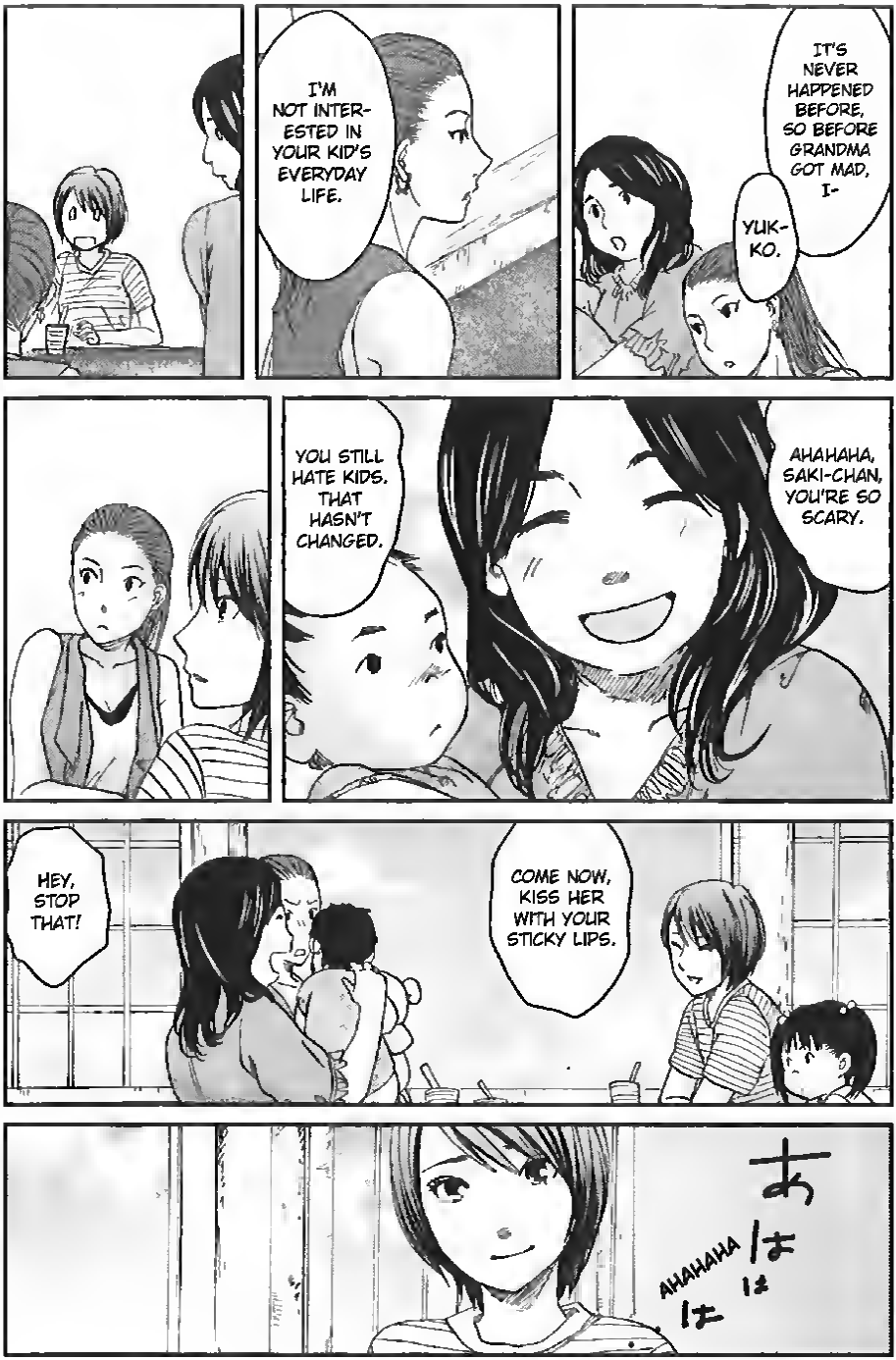

Kyahahaha
TAP
TAP


THUMP
IT REALLY HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE LAST MET, HUH?
WAHHH
YEAH, IT'S ALREADY DONE. I'VE ALREADY TALKED TO THE OLD MAN ABOUT IT.
WAHHH
IS EVERY-THING REGARD-ING THE FUNERAL OKAY?

GYAHHH
MY HUSBAND TEXTED ME JUST NOW, TELLING ME THAT I COULDN'T.
WERE-N'T YOU GOING TO STAY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS?
WAHHH
AH, I HAVE TO GO BACK TO KA-GOSHIMA TONIGHT, TOO.
I DON'T HAVE ANY FREE TIME AT ALL BECAUSE OF THE FU-NERAL. EVEN TODAY, I HAVE TO GO BACK THERE.
BACKGROUND TEXT: WAHHH
PULL
PULL
AHAHA, THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
HE'S GOING CRAZY THERE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOW, NOW, AKKUN MISA-CHAN, COULD YOU GO GET HIS TEDDY BEAR?
WAHHHHHN
WAHHHHHN
HUH? HE DOESN'T HAVE IT WITH HIM?
NGU
NGU
NGYAHHH
SHE'S JUST HAD HER THIRD CHILD. THIS IS WHAT I GO HOME TO EVERY DAY.
I'M STAYING WITH MY OLDER SISTER, SO I'M USED TO THIS
YOU'RE PRETTY CALM ABOUT THIS.
HMM...
MISA-CHAN, DRAW A PUPPY NEXT.
AH.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE LEFT IT IN THE CAR. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
OKAY.


HAHA...
I FEEL RELIEVED HAVING YOU HERE AS A FELLOW BACHELORETTE, KANAE.
BEEP!
I DON'T THINK THAT THERE'S ANYTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS WHEN PARENTS TAKE THEIR KIDS BACK TO THEIR HOMETOWN
YOUR RELATIVES ALL ASK YOU IF YOU'RE MARRIED YET.
WELL, IT IS THE COUNTRYSIDE...
SO SAKI-CHAN, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS RIGHT NOW?
WORK ISN'T REALLY THAT INTERESTING, AND I HAVE NO USE FOR A BOYFRIEND AT ALL RIGHT NOW.
Ah, sorry text
THE TV STATION SEEMS REALLY GLAMOUROUS, THOUGH.
NOT AT ALL. IT'S COMPLETELY BLAND.
WELL, I GUESS IT IS KIND OF FUN.
BESIDES, ONCE YOU GET MARRIED, ALL THE HOUSEWIVES JUST TALK ABOUT THEIR HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN.
AH, I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.


BUT I ALSO THINK THAT IT'S PRETTY COOL TO STAND UP FOR MYSELF LIKE YOU, SAKI-CHAN.
...I THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE NICE BECAUSE THEY LOOK HAPPY,
AND I KIND OF WANT TO GET MAR-RIED...
I HAVEN'T COMPLETELY DEVOTED MY LIFE TO MY JOB YET,
I'M... STILL UN-CERTAIN.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. IT FELL UNDER THE SEAT AND WE HAD TO SEARCH FOR IT.
UGH...
WELL, THAT'S LIKE YOU, KANAE. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
AH, WHAT A TYPICAL "LET IT BE AND THEN IT'S TOO LATE" SITUA-TION.
THIS KID ENDED UP BITING THE OTHER'S HAND.
HE EVEN FOUGHT OVER IT WITH HIS COUSIN THE LAST TIME HE CAME OVER TO PLAY.
HE HAS TO HAVE HIS BEAR WITH HIM AT ALL TIMES.


I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR KID'S EVERYDAY LIFE.
IT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE, SO BEFORE GRANDMA GOT MAD, I-
YUKKO.
YOU STILL HATE KIDS. THAT HASN'T CHANGED.
AHAHAHA, SAKI-CHAN, YOU'RE SO SCARY.
HEY, STOP THAT!
COME NOW, KISS HER WITH YOUR STICKY LIPS.
あ
AHAHAHA
は
は
は

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
HEY!
WHOA!

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'LL BE COMING OUT ANYTIME SOON, HUH?

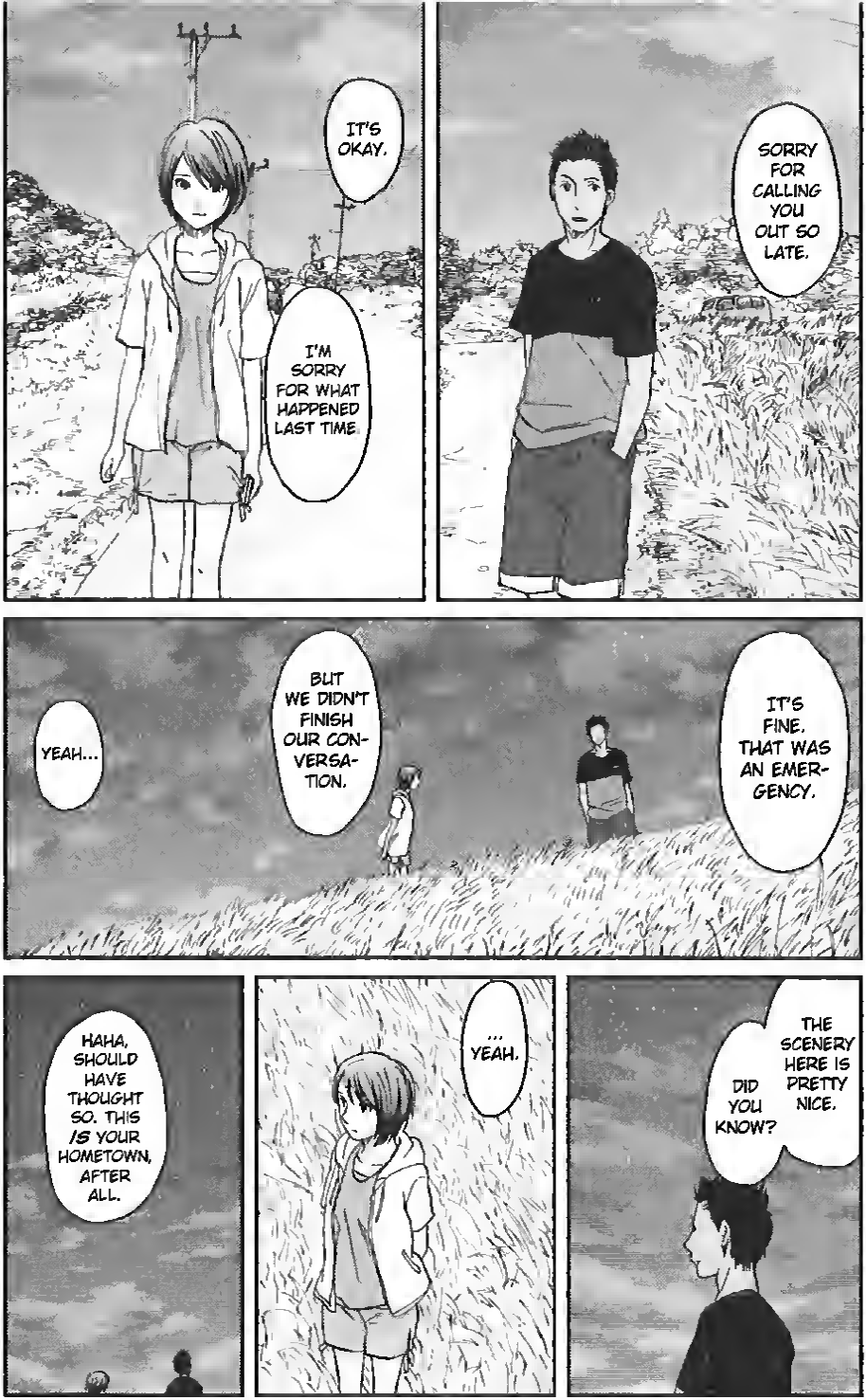
HE-
CRASH
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!?

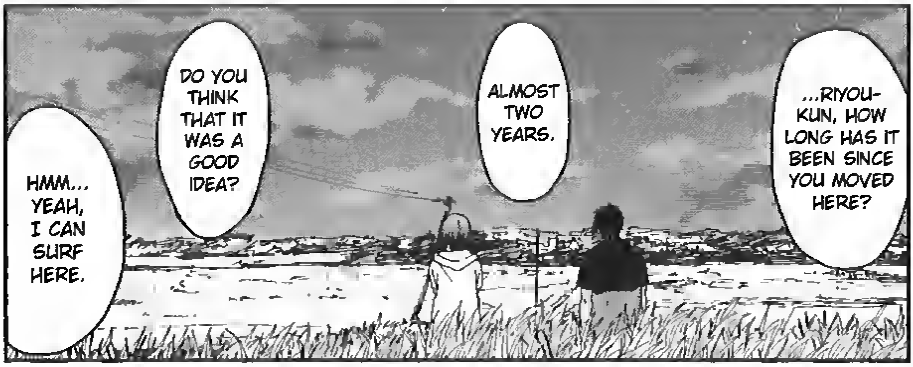
JUST THE THOUGHT OF HAVING ANOTHER BOY HERE MAKES ME DIZZY...

GROWL
KYAA!

THE THING ABOUT WAITING FOR HIM TO BE DISCHARGED?
YEAH, IT MUST BE DAD'S CURSE.
HEY, HEY, HEY!

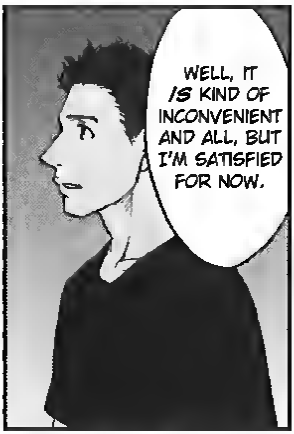
BUT STILL,
WITHOUT THAT KIND OF PRESSURE, IT ACTUALLY BECOMES PRETTY HARD TO DO ANYTHING.
AHAHA, SHE ALREADY HAS HER HANDS FULL WITH MY KIDS.
HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF YOU, MOM'S NEVER TALKED TO ME ABOUT GETTING MARRIED OR HAVING KIDS.
AH,
A CALL?

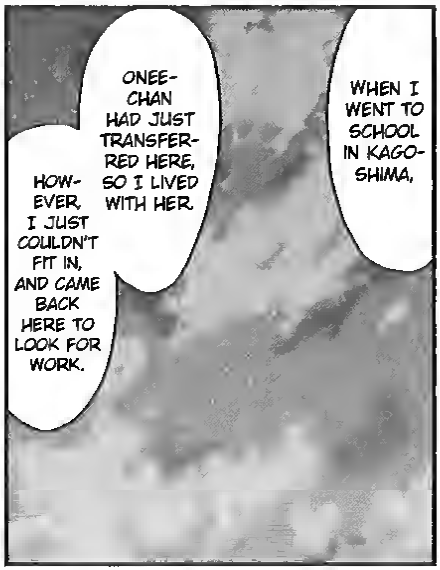

IT'S OKAY.
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME.
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT SO LATE.
YEAH...
BUT WE DIDN'T FINISH OUR CONVERSATION.
IT'S FINE. THAT WAS AN EMERGENCY.
HAHA, SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT SO. THIS *IS* YOUR HOMETOWN, AFTER ALL.
..., YEAH.
DID YOU KNOW?
THE SCENERY HERE IS PRETTY NICE.


...RIYOU-KUN, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU MOVED HERE?
ALMOST TWO YEARS.
DO YOU THINK THAT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA?
HMM... YEAH, I CAN SURF HERE.

KANAE-CHAN, DO YOU LIKE IT HERE, TOO?
IT'S RARE FOR SOMEONE TO STAY ON THIS ISLAND.

I SEE...


WELL, IT IS KIND OF INCONVENIENT AND ALL, BUT I'M SATISFIED FOR NOW.


WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL IN KAGO-SHIMA,
ONEE-CHAN HAD JUST TRANSFER-RED HERE, SO I LIVED WITH HER.
HOW-EVER, I JUST COULDN'T FIT IN, AND CAME BACK HERE TO LOOK FOR WORK.

...I DON'T KNOW.

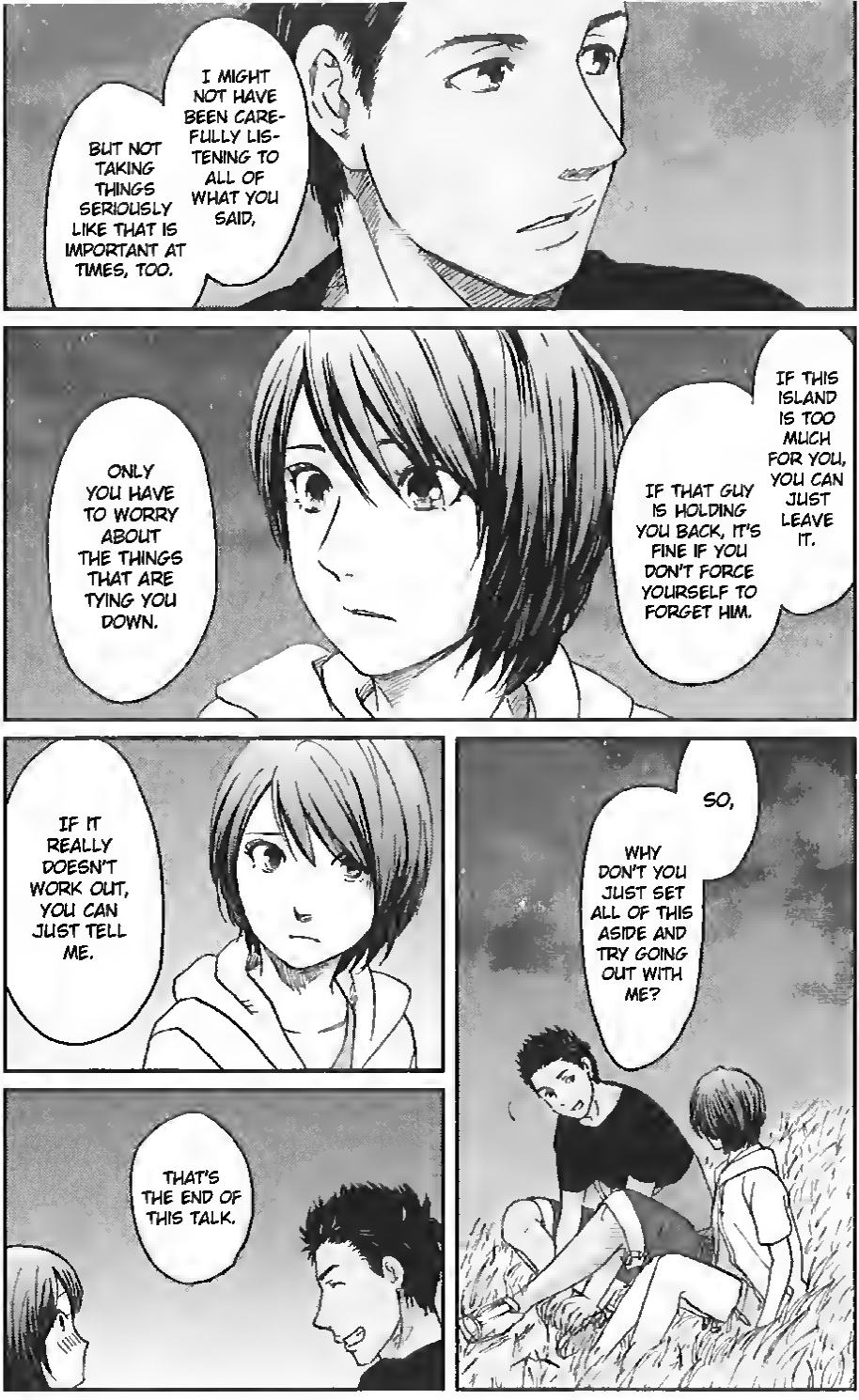
NOPE... I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY.
I ONLY EVER WENT TO THE BEACH OVER THE HOLIDAYS.
I... HAVEN'T GONE FARTHER THAN FUKUOKA AND OKINAWA
I COULDN'T EVEN GO ON THE SCHOOL TRIP BECAUSE I HAD A FEVER...
WHAT? YOU'VE NEVER GONE ON A SCHOOL TRIP BEFORE?
AND THEN YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH THE WAVES, RIGHT?
I WONDER...
I LIKE SURFING,
BUT I'M NOT A PRO LIKE YOU, SO I SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.
I'LL ALWAYS STAY ON THIS ISLAND,
AND THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY POTENTIAL AT ALL.
HOWEVER, STARGAZING LIKE THIS...
...MAKES ME THINK THAT,
DESPITE HAVING FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL,
HMM...
YOU SAID THAT YOU STUDIED REALLY HARD FOR IT.
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT BECOMING A NURSE WAS A REALLY IMPORTANT DECISION FOR YOU?
I WAS WORRYING ABOUT THIS WHEN I WAS IN MY TEENS, TOO,
BUT I JUST IGNORED IT, AND NOW IT'S LIKE THIS.

HE MOVED HERE FROM TOKYO.
HE WOULD STAY BY MY SIDE AND LAUGH KINDLY WITH ME,
BUT HIS HEART ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE FACING SOMETHING FAR AWAY...
THERE WAS SOMEONE I LIKED FROM MIDDLE TO HIGH SCHOOL.
IT WAS JUST A ONE-SIDED LOVE, THOUGH.
I COULD SEE HIM RIGHT THERE BESIDE ME. AND YET HE SEEMED LIKE A STAR SHINING BRIGHTLY FAR AWAY.
HE'S... BEEN ON MY MIND,
THIS PAST WHILE IN PARTICULAR.
THAT'S WHY, BACK THEN, A PART OF MY HEART KNEW THAT MY FEELINGS DEFINITELY WOULDN'T REACH HIM.
HEHE, THAT WAS A TERRIBLE WAY OF SAYING IT...
AND SO,
THAT "LOVE" MIXED TOGETHER WITH MY ADMIRATION FOR THE VAST WORLD UNKNOWN TO ME.

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO SAY IT BECAUSE I KNEW THAT I WOULD NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
HOW-EVER,
THAT'S WHEN I CON-FESSED TO HIM.
HE TOLD ME WHEN HIS FLIGHT WAS.
WHEN HE LEFT THIS IS-LAND TO GO BACK TO TO-KYO.
IN THE END, MY DE-TERMINATION SLOWLY FADED, AND THIS IS WHERE I AM NOW..
...TO STAY OPTI-MISTIC AND EXPAND MY WORLD.
THAT WAS PROB-ABLY WHEN I HAD TO DO MY BEST..
AFTER THAT, I WORKED HARD ON MY STUD-IES AS I WORKED PART-TIME..
THE STORY JUST SEEMED TO GO IN THAT DIREC-TION.
HUH?
DO YOU STILL LIKE THAT PERSON NOW?
...SORRY, THAT WAS KIND OF...
...A WEIRD STORY
HMM... BUT...
...I WON-DER...
NO WAY. I MEAN, THIS WAS TEN YEARS AGO...

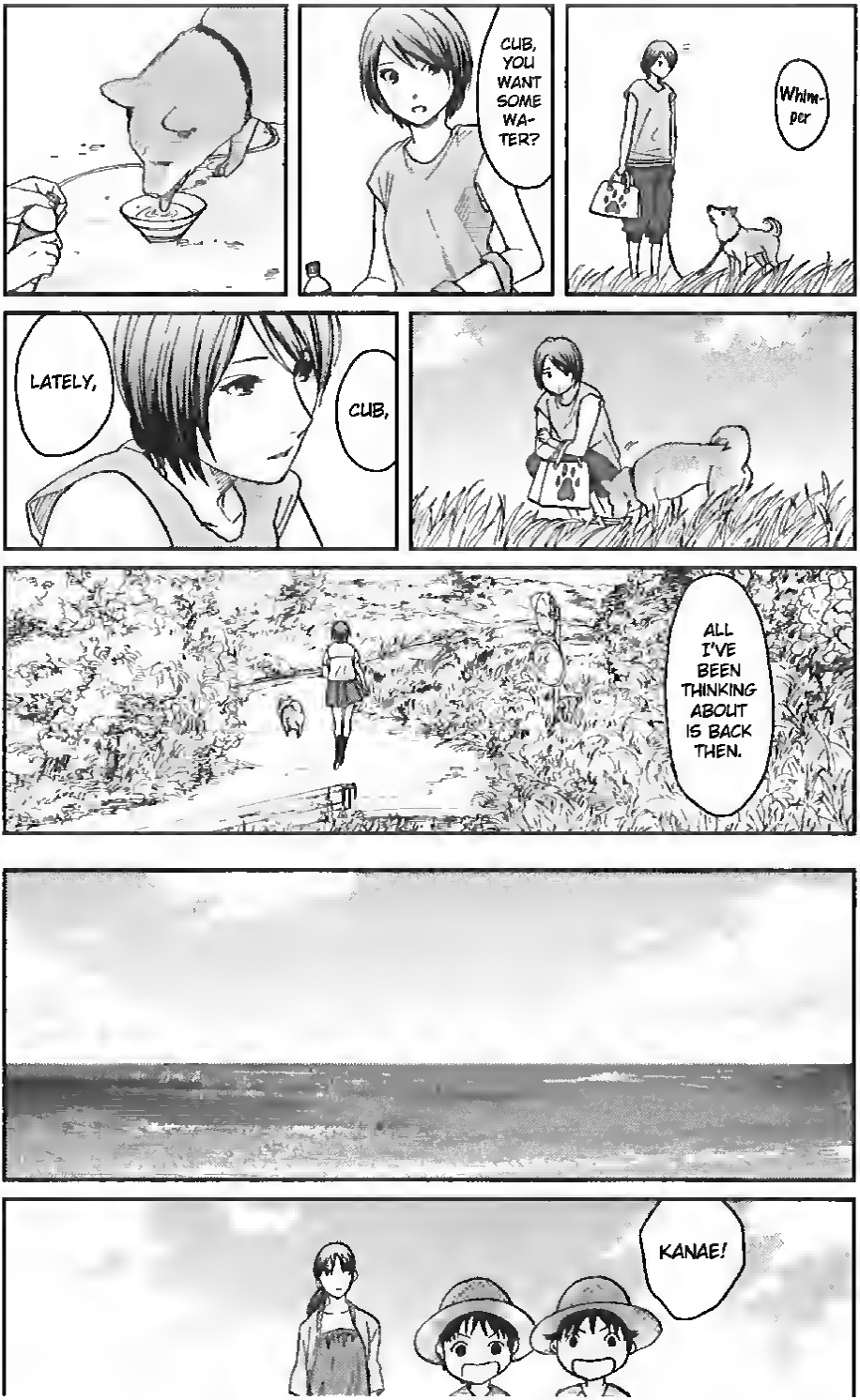
I WANTED TO HAVE A BOY-FRIEND,
BUT IT DIDN'T TURN OUT WELL.
MAYBE IT'S PROOF THAT I'VE BE-COME AN ADULT.
I JUST COULDN'T THINK OF ANYONE ELSE IN THE SAME WAY AS WITH ALL OF MY FEELINGS BUILT UP... THAT TIME,
...AND DIRECTED TOWARDS THAT PERSON.
NOTHING LIKE THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED LATELY. I'VE BEEN LAYING LOW AND LETTING TIME JUST PASS BY.
EVEN IF THINGS TURNED A BIT FOR THE WORSE, I'D IMMEDIATELY GIVE UP IN-STEAD OF TRYING TO OVERCOME IT...
MY HEART IS PEACE-FUL AND HASN'T BEEN CHOPPY,
BUT I'M ALWAYS UNEASY AND ASKING MYSELF IF I'M ALL RIGHT WITH THIS...
SO,
YOU'RE TROUBLED BY THE FACT THAT I, WHO KNOWS NOTH-ING ABOUT THIS, CON-FESSED TO YOU.
.....
YEAH...

I PROBABLY HAVE LESS TO WORRY ABOUT THAN YOU WHEN IT COMES TO LOVING SOMEONE,
BUT I'D JUST LOVE SOMEONE WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THIS OR THAT.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
GUYS ARE JUST LIKE THAT.
I LIKE HOW YOU'RE CUTE.
THIS IS A BAD WAY TO ASK...
...BUT WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ME?
AS I THOUGHT, "AH, GEEZ, WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME SUCH A SERIOUS STORY? LISTENING TO THIS IS JUST PISSING ME OFF."
I ALSO THOUGHT THAT THIS SERIOUSNESS, CLUMSINESS AND HONESTY MADE YOU SO MUCH CUTER.
YOU'RE CUTE BUT YOU RE ALSO INDECISIVE AND NEVER MAKE UP YOUR MIND ABOUT ANYTHING.
HOWEVER, THAT FLAW OF YOURS JUST MAKES ME MORE INTERESTED IN YOU.
AFTER HEARING WHAT YOU SAID TODAY, I'M THINKING LIKE THAT MORE AND MORE.


I MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY LISTENING TO ALL OF WHAT YOU SAID,
BUT NOT TAKING THINGS SERIOUSLY LIKE THAT IS IMPORTANT AT TIMES, TOO.
IF THIS ISLAND IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU, YOU CAN JUST LEAVE IT.
IF THAT GUY IS HOLDING YOU BACK, IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO FORGET HIM.
ONLY YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE THINGS THAT ARE TYING YOU DOWN.
IF IT REALLY DOESN'T WORK OUT, YOU CAN JUST TELL ME.
SO,
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SET ALL OF THIS ASIDE AND TRY GOING OUT WITH ME?
THAT'S THE END OF THIS TALK.

COULD YOU GIVE ME...
...A BIT OF TIME?
...THANK YOU.
JUST A BIT.
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
KANAE!
SEE, WHAT DID I TELL YOU? YOU'RE STILL NO MATCH FOR CUB.

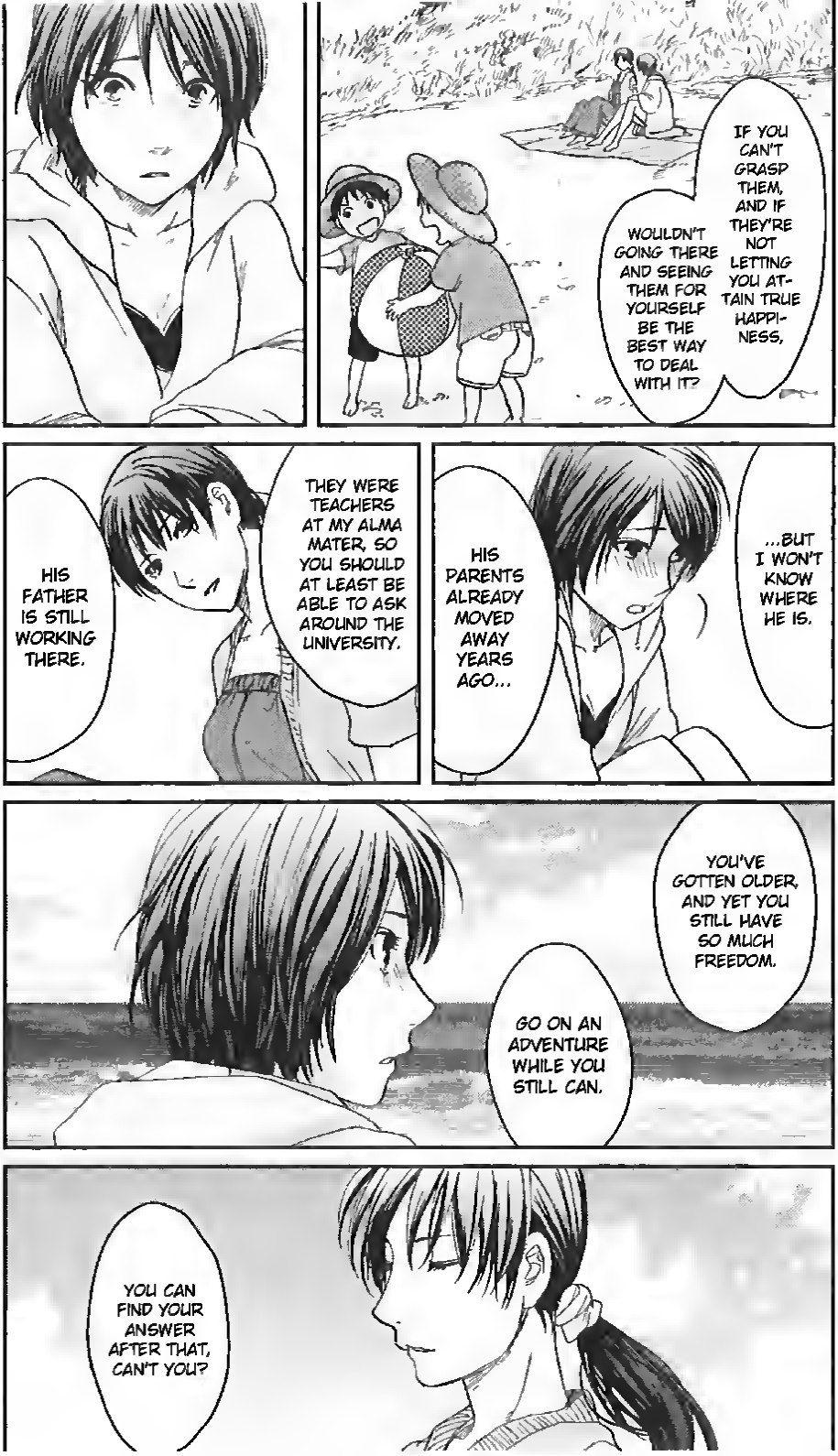
DASH
WHAT? THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY...
HEY, WAIT!
UGLY!
KANAE'S UGLY SIDE SHOWED UP!
Pii-chan
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? CUB IS THE CUTEST OF THEM ALL!
I WANT PII-CHAN FROM NEXT DOOR!
I WANT A SMALLER DOG.
VROOM
WATCH OUT, THERE ARE BIKES COMING!
VROOM

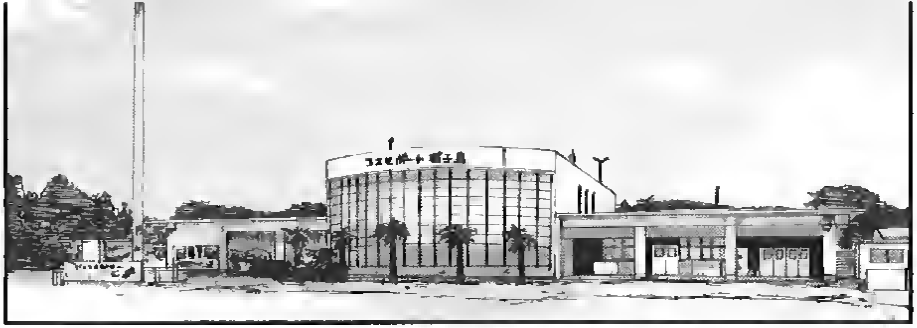

CUB, YOU WANT SOME WA-TER?
Whim-per
LATELY,
CUB,
ALL I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IS BACK THEN.
KANAE!

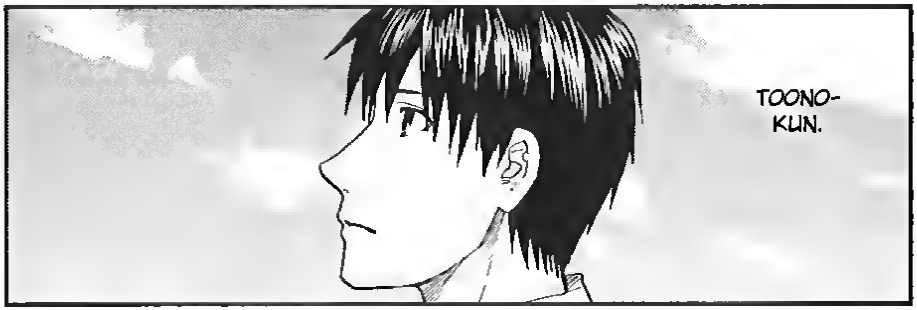
AMAZ-
ING...
SHE'S
GOTTEN
GOOD.
HOW
LAME!
UGLY!
SPLASH
AH.

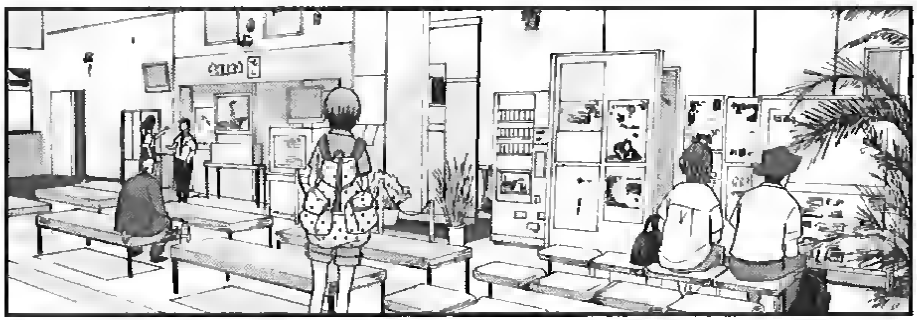
NICE JOB THERE.
THOSE TWO WANTED TO GO TO THE BEACH, SO I BROUGHT LUNCHES.
EAT UP.
ONEE-CHAN,
I...
...DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.

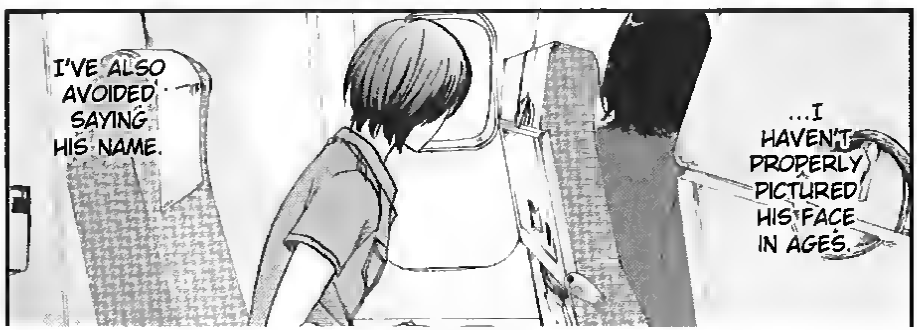
...HOW TROUBLE-SOME.
WHY DON'T YOU GO TO TOKYO?
GO TO TOKYO...
...AND FIND TOONO-KUN.
YOU AT LEAST HAVE ENOUGH SAVED UP FOR THAT, RIGHT?
TO YOU, TOONO-KUN AND TOKYO ARE LIGHTS THAT SHINE FAR FROM BOTH YOU AND THE ISLAND.
THEY'RE SYMBOLS OF HOPE THAT YOU CAN NEVER GRASP.


IF YOU CAN'T GRASP THEM, AND IF THEY'RE NOT LETTING YOU ATTAIN TRUE HAPPINESS,
WOULDN'T GOING THERE AND SEEING THEM FOR YOURSELF BE THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH IT?
...BUT I WON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.
HIS PARENTS ALREADY MOVED AWAY YEARS AGO...
THEY WERE TEACHERS AT MY ALMA MATER, SO YOU SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO ASK AROUND THE UNIVERSITY.
HIS FATHER IS STILL WORKING THERE.
YOU'VE GOTTEN OLDER, AND YET YOU STILL HAVE SO MUCH FREEDOM.
GO ON AN ADVENTURE WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
YOU CAN FIND YOUR ANSWER AFTER THAT, CAN'T YOU?

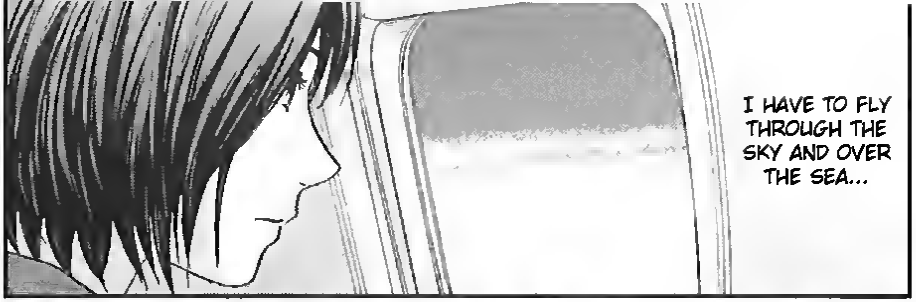



TOONO-
KUN.

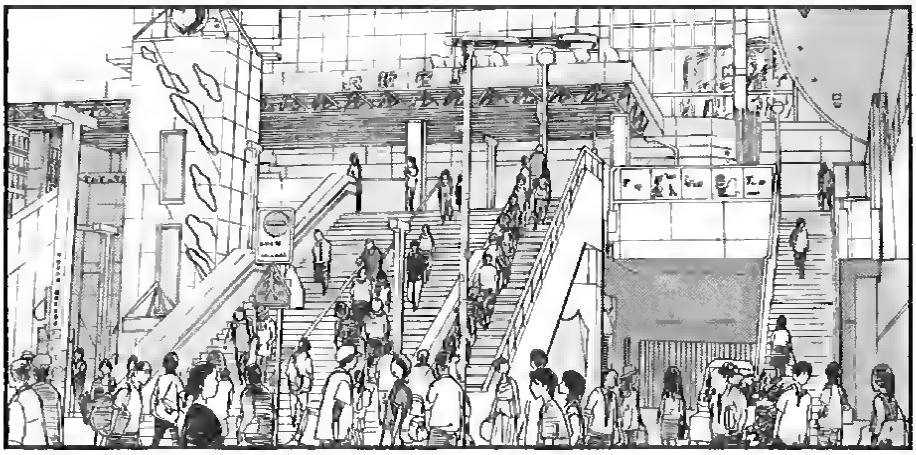



I'VE ALSO AVOIDED SAYING HIS NAME.
...I HAVEN'T PROPERLY PICTURED HIS FACE IN AGES.

...WITHOUT A GOAL.
HOWEVER, I'VE GIVEN UP ON STRETCHING OUT MY ARMS.
GAZING AT SOMETHING ...
...FAR AWAY...
I THINK THAT RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST LIKE TOONO-KUN BACK THEN.
AND ENDED IT ALL WITH A CONFESSION.
FAILED,
THE PAST ME GAVE IT HER ALL TO GRASP IT,
IF I CALL OUT TO HIM, WILL TOONO-KUN TURN AROUND AND LOOK AT ME?
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO CONFIRM.
I WANT THE INNOCENT STRENGTH THAT I HAD BACK THEN.
IN ORDER FOR MY CLOCK TO START TICKING AGAIN,
BECAUSE ALL HE'S GIVEN ME IS KINDNESS.
I MIGHT NEED HIM TO HURT ME THAT WAY,
WILL HE ASK WHO I AM WITH A BLANK FACE?


I HAVE TO FLY THROUGH THE SKY AND OVER THE SEA...

...OF A PLACE I'VE NEVER BEEN TO BEFORE, AT A SPEED OF 1000 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

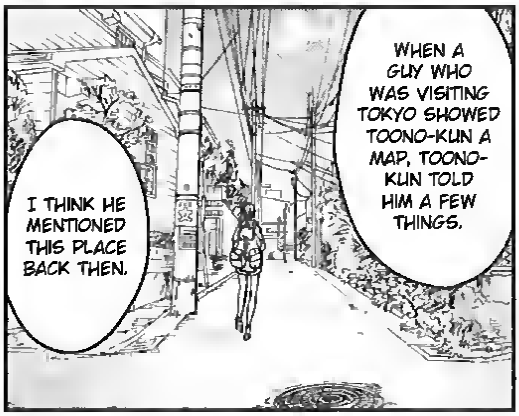


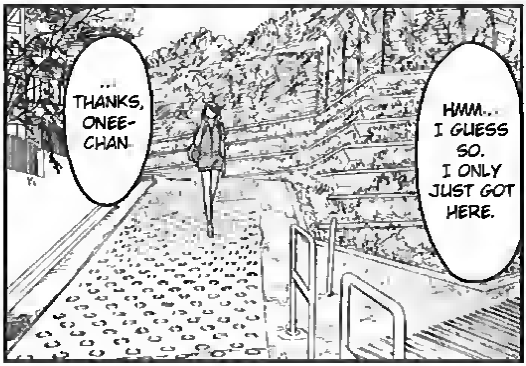
AH.
...EXPRESS? SOBU MAIN LINE?
AHEM.
I GUESS I SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM FIRST.
I'LL DO THAT.
...THAT'S RIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW MY WAY FROM MITAKA STATION.
UMM... M-MAY I PLEASE SPEAK TO TOONO-SAN FROM THE MOBILE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT?
YES!

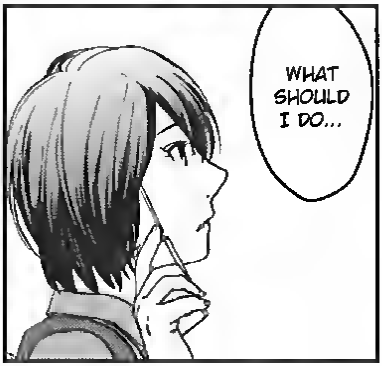
HE QUIT...
EX-CUSE ME.
FLINCH
I'M LOOKING FOR A CATWALK MODEL. DO YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME RIGHT NOW?
N-NO,
SOR-RY.

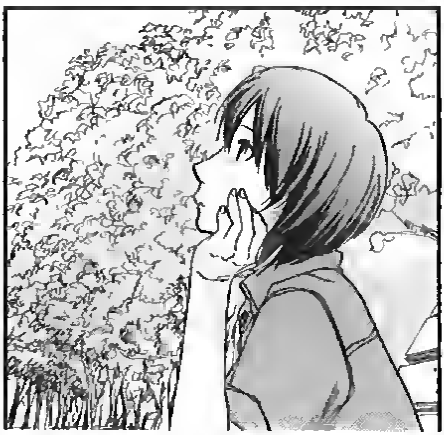
RIGHT NOW... I THINK I'M AROUND WHERE TOONO-KUN USED TO LIVE.
HMM...

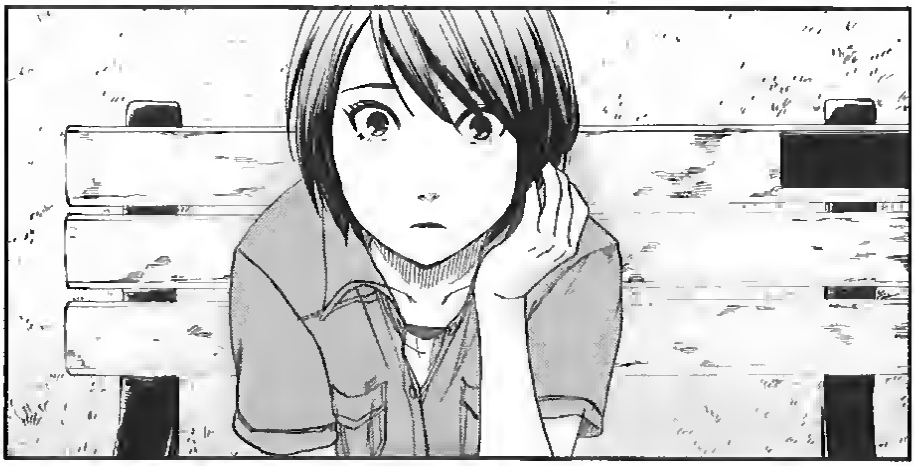
I'M JUST WALKING AROUND FOR NOW.
NO, I GOT HERE BY WANDERING AROUND.

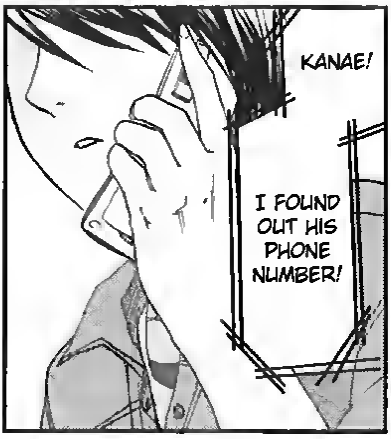

I THINK HE MENTIONED THIS PLACE BACK THEN.
WHEN A GUY WHO WAS VISITING TOKYO SHOWED TOONO-KUN A MAP, TOONO-KUN TOLD HIM A FEW THINGS.


... THANKS, ONEE-CHAN.
HMM... I GUESS SO. I ONLY JUST GOT HERE.


WHAT SHOULD I DO...





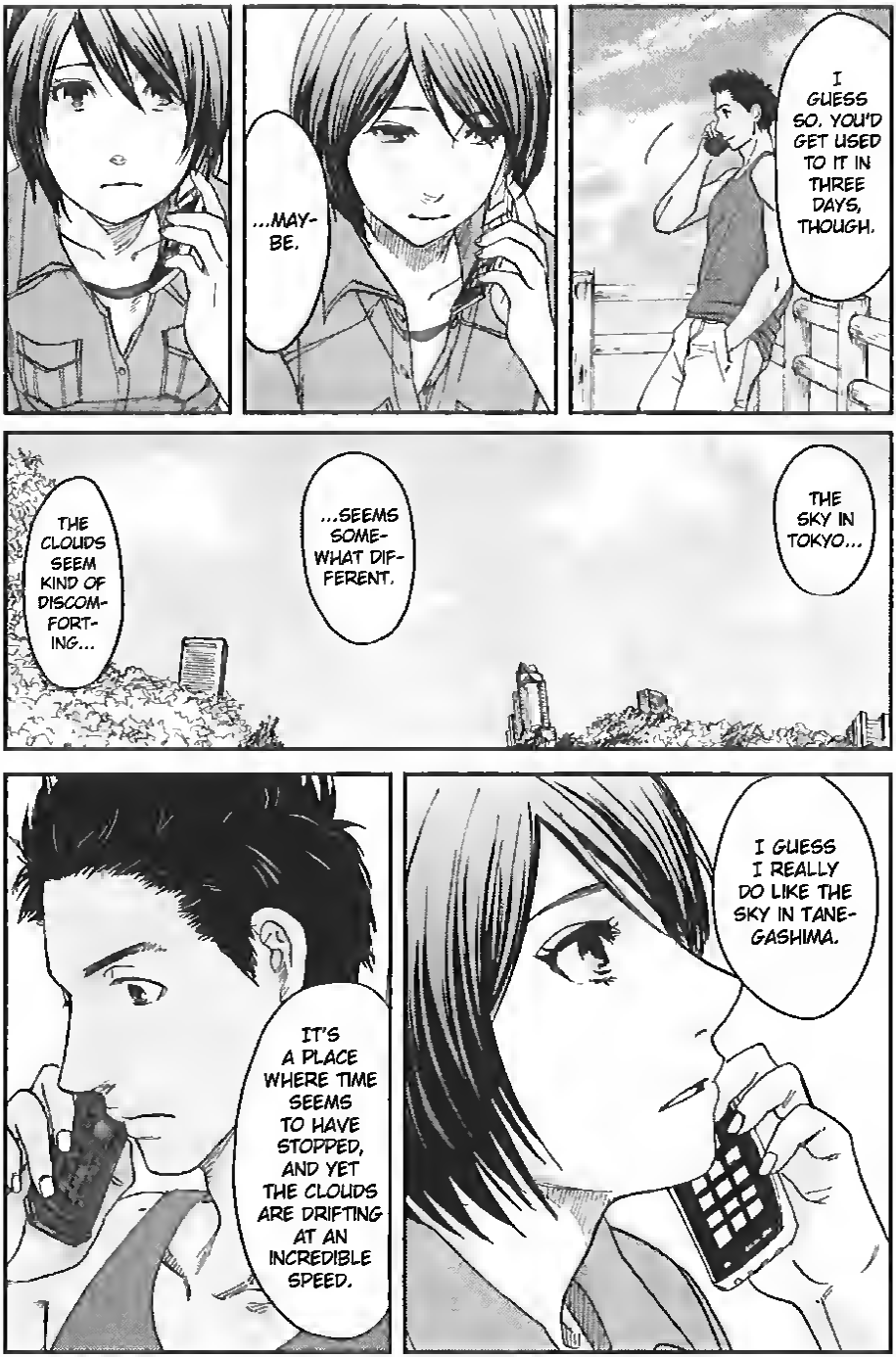

KANAE!
I FOUND OUT HIS PHONE NUMBER!

HEL-LO?

I TALKED TO THE ORGANIZER OF THE CLASS REUNION AND HE MENTIONED HOW TOONO-KUN DIDN'T COME...
...AND HOW HE COULDN'T BE CONTACTED.
IT'S ONLY HIS PARENTS' THOUGH.
THEY SEEM TO BE STAYING IN NAGANO RIGHT NOW.
THANK YOU.
YEAH.
UH HUH
LAST YEAR, HIS PARENTS SAID THAT THEY WOULD PASS THE MESSAGE ONTO THEIR SON, SO YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM.
RR-RR-RING
RR-RR-RING

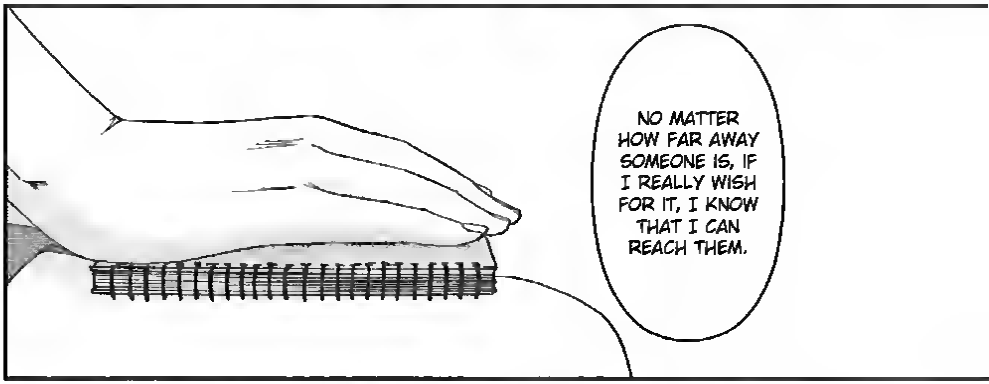
RIYOU-KUN?
HELLO.
TIMEWISE, I THINK I CAN ONLY MAKE IT BACK TO KAGO-SHIMA, THOUGH.
NO, I'M COMING BACK TO-NIGHT.
YEAH, I ENDED UP COMING HERE.
YEAH.
I'M IN TOKYO RIGHT NOW.
NO, THE TONE...
...OF YOUR VOICE SEEMED SO DECI-SIVE.
MAN... FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT THAT YOU MOVED THERE.
REALLY?
NO,
BUT IT'S FINE.
WHAT?
SO YOU MET UP WITH THAT GUY?

THAT'S WHY IT'S FINE.
WHEN I ACTUALLY WANT TO MEET HIM, I HAVE A TICKET THAT CAN LET ME MEET HIM AT ANY TIME.
IT'S MORE LIKE...
DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU GAVE UP?
HUH?
...I'M OVER-WHELMED BY TOKYO, EVEN THOUGH I'VE...
...ONLY BEEN HERE FOR A FEW HOURS.
...A DIF-FERENT DIMEN-SION.
...OF THE PEOPLE AND TRAINS IS LIKE...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME. THE SHEER NUMBER AND SPEED...


...MAY-BE.
I GUESS SO. YOU'D GET USED TO IT IN THREE DAYS, THOUGH.
THE SKY IN TOKYO...
...SEEMS SOME-WHAT DIF-FERENT.
THE CLOUDS SEEM KIND OF DISCOM-FORT-ING...
I GUESS I REALLY DO LIKE THE SKY IN TANE-GASHIMA.
IT'S A PLACE WHERE TIME SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED, AND YET THE CLOUDS ARE DRIFTING AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED.

I'M GOING TO RETURN TO THE ISLAND WHERE I'M...
...MORE OR LESS FINE.
CAN ACT WILD, AND WHERE I CAN SOMETIMES MEET VISITORS...
HOWEVER, ONCE I KNOW THAT THE SKY THERE IS THE SKY I'M USED TO,
I CAN FEEL SLIGHTLY MORE AT EASE.
...ARRIVING IN ROCKETS.
I'LL ALSO KEEP QUESTIONING WHETHER I'M OKAY WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE NOW.

BESIDES, I CAN GO ANYWHERE IF I FEEL LIKE IT.

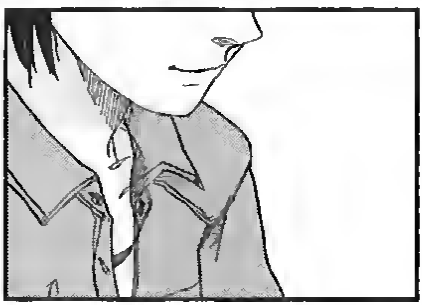

NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY SOMEONE IS, IF I REALLY WISH FOR IT, I KNOW THAT I CAN REACH THEM.

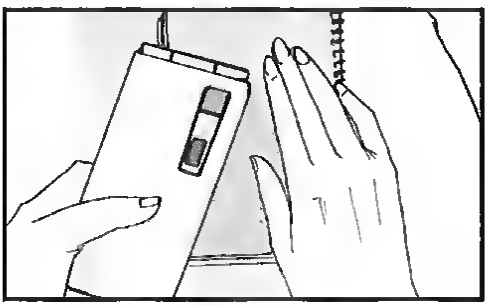
THAT'S WHY...
...I'M FINE.

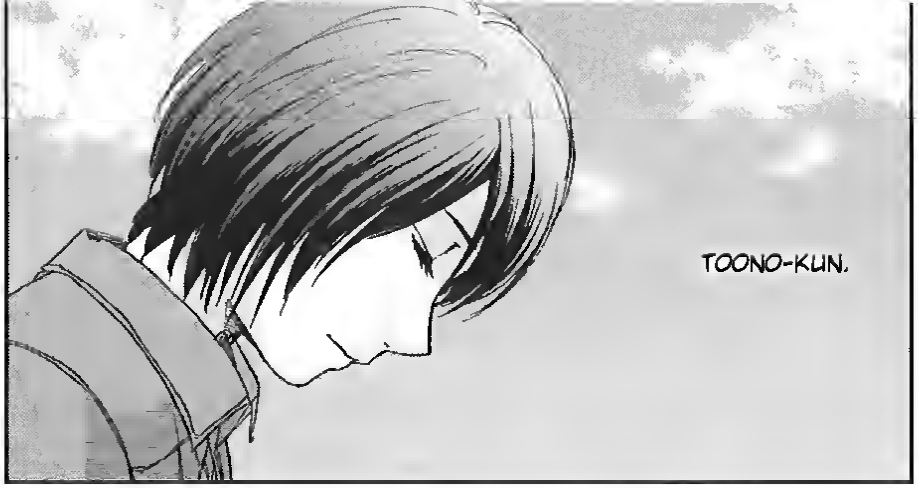
...I SEE.
...SO, DO YOU HAVE A REPLY FOR ME NOW?
WHAAAT!?
I'M SORRY!
I HAVEN'T REALLY GROUNDED MYSELF YET.
OR RATHER, I WANT TO GO OUT WITH SOMEONE I TRULY LIKE.
I'M SORRY
I'M REALLY SORRY...
WASN'T THAT TALK LEADING TOWARDS AN "OKAY"!?

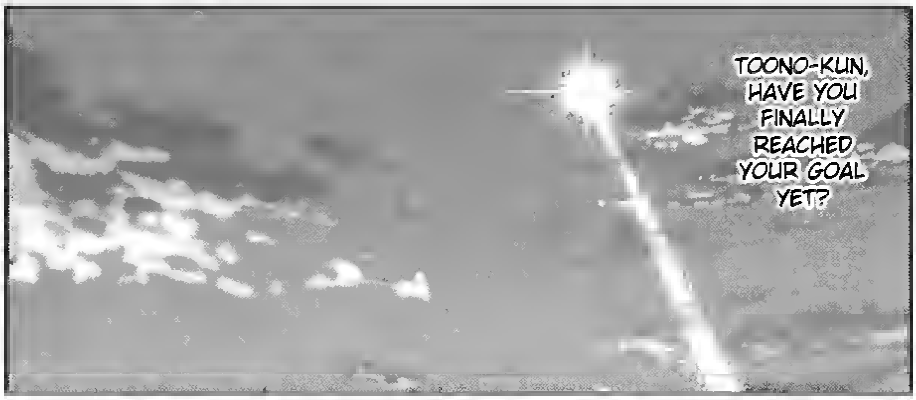
I WANT TO SEE YOU FACE-TO-FACE AND MAKE YOU MORE AWARE OF ME!
AH, GEEZ! HURRY UP AND COME BACK HERE, KANAE-CHAN!
I DON'T KNOW ...
...SO DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU'LL PAY MORE ATTENTION TO ME AND THAT I STILL HAVE A CHANCE?
AHAHA, THAT'S SCARY...
HMM?
RIYOU-KUN.
...THANK YOU.

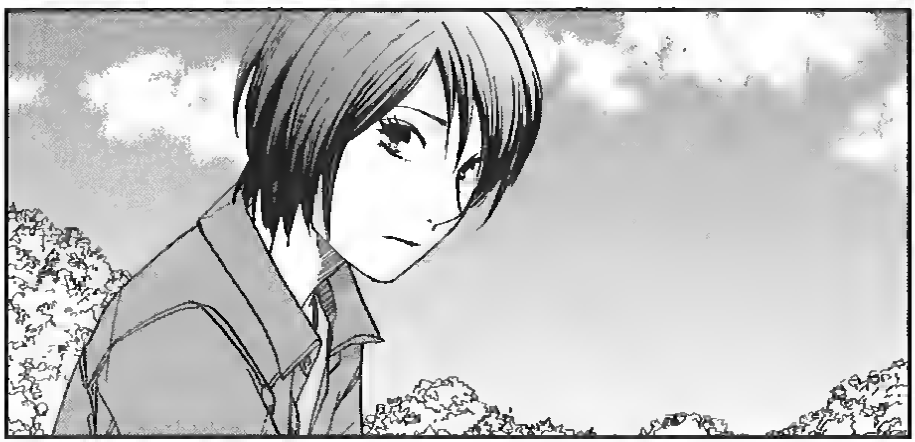
BE CAREFUL,
AND HURRY ON BACK HERE.

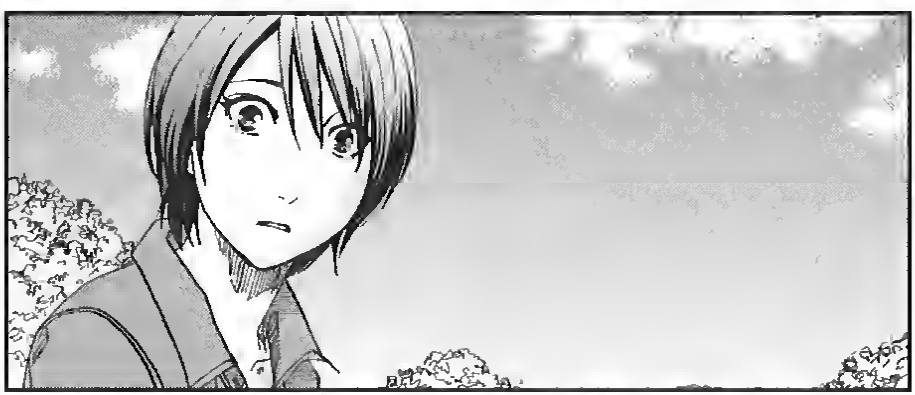





TOONO-KUN.


TOONO-KUN, HAVE YOU FINALLY REACHED YOUR GOAL YET?





5 Centimeters Per Second: End

秒速５センチメートル 完

a chain of short stories about their distance

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